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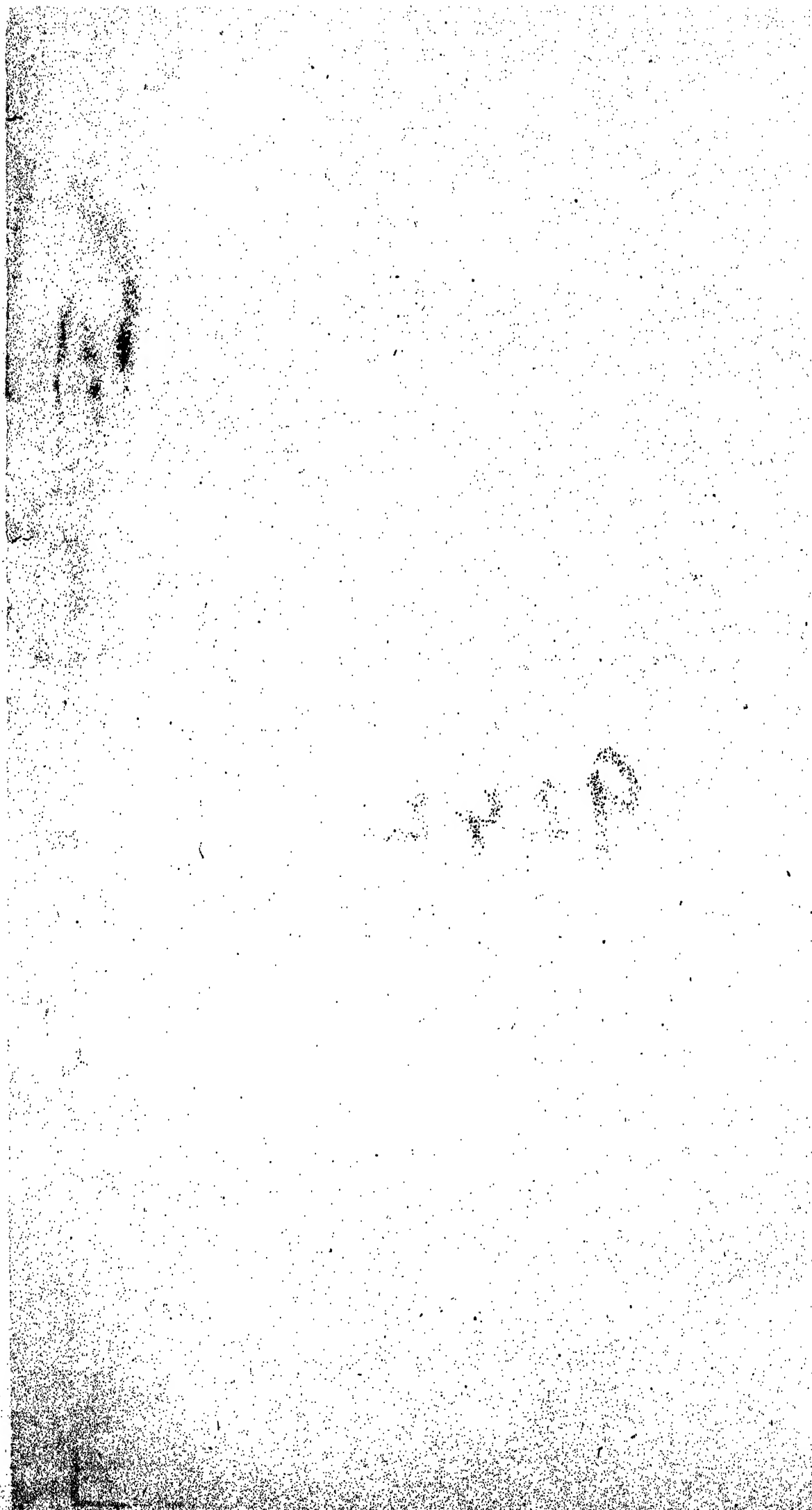
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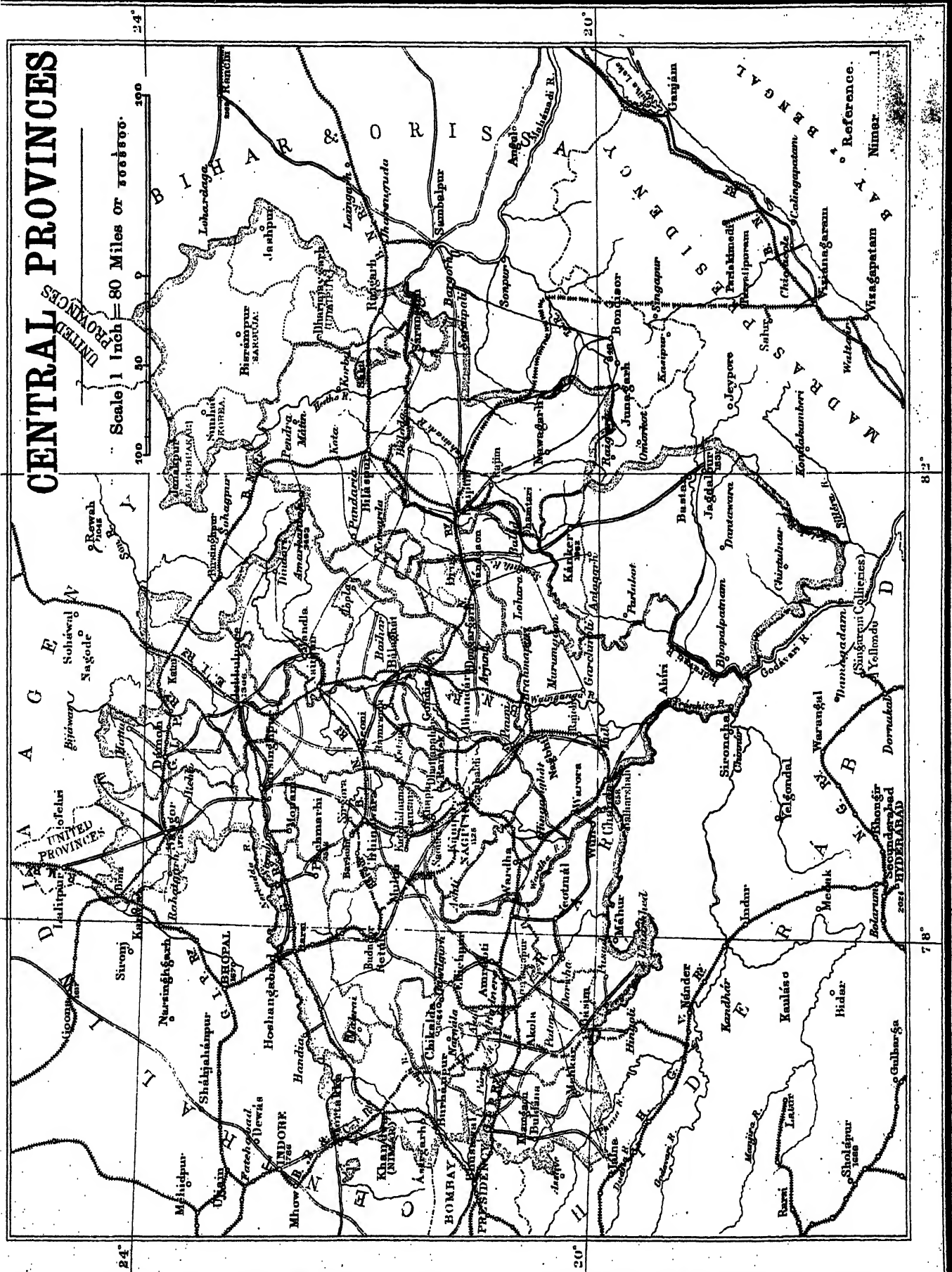
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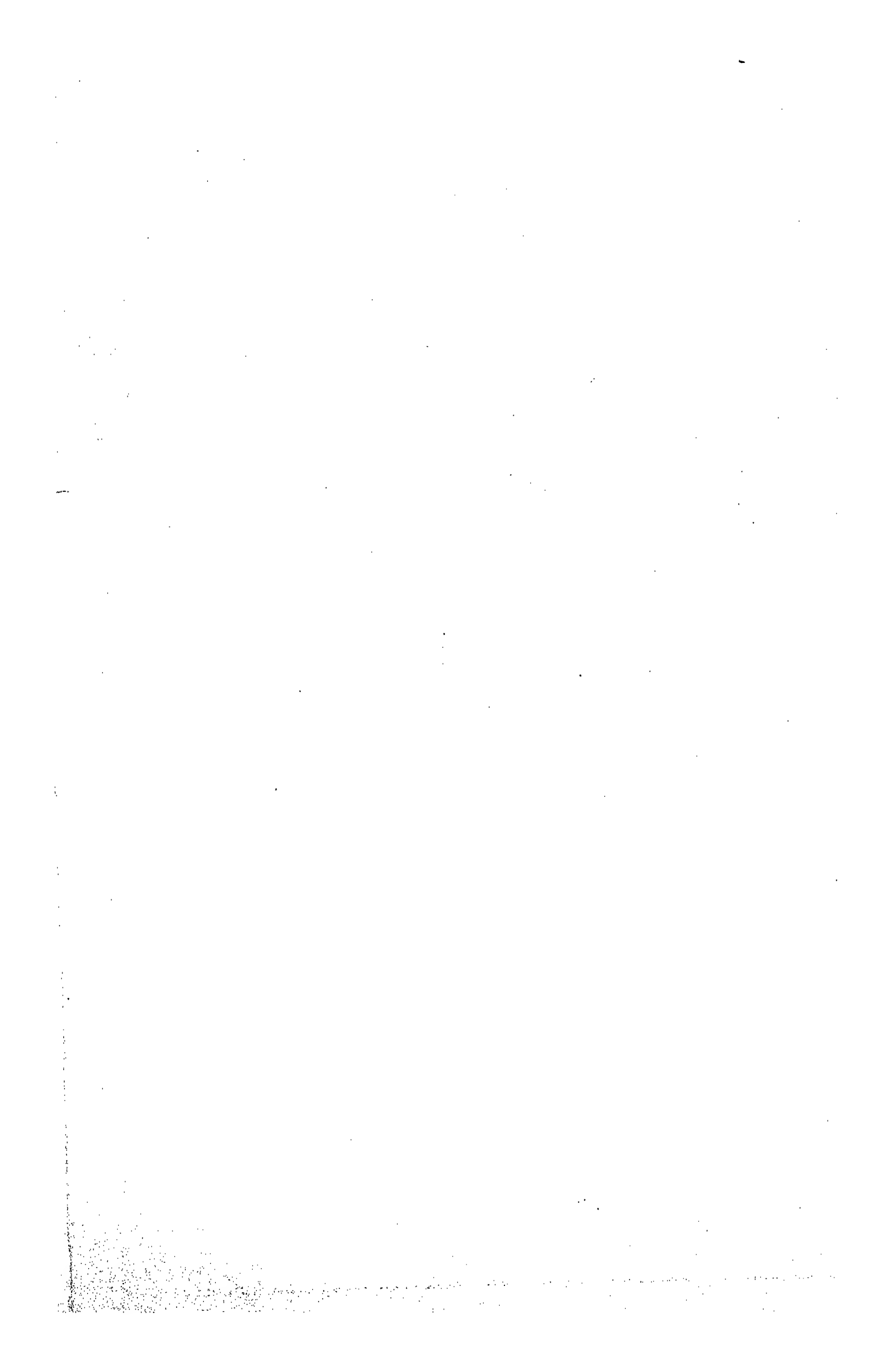
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CENTRAL PROVINCES

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REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR
FOR THE YEAR
1914-15

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1914-15

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

The reports on which this review of the Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar is based relate to the several different periods specified at the head of each section in Part II, and the various periods of 12 months to which the different sections of this report refer cover in all a period of 23 months, beginning on the 1st August 1913 and ending on the 30th June 1915.

2. The monsoon of 1914 began well and the good sowing conditions resulted in a large expansion of the area sown with kharif crops. During July, August and September the rain was sufficient and well distributed and the prospects of the kharif crops were excellent. The rice crop in the Chhattisgarh Division, however, was damaged by insects and the outturn of the kharif harvest for the Province did not exceed the normal. The conditions were favourable for the sowing of the rabi crops, but cloudy weather during November, and short rainfall in October, seriously injured the young plants. The winter rains were on the whole unsatisfactory, and finally heavy storms of rain frequently accompanied by hail caused considerable damage at harvest time, and in the end the rabi harvest for the Province was only about 80 to 85 per cent of a normal crop. The outbreak of the war considerably diminished the volume of trade and assisted in keeping the prices of food-grains at a high level, but the prosperity of the Province was not seriously affected, although the fall in the price of cotton reacted unfavourably on conditions in the cotton districts and the poor rabi harvest told somewhat hardly on the people of the northern districts of the Province. The year was less healthy than that of 1913, as epidemics of cholera and plague caused heavy mortality, while the increase in the birth-rate was only slight. The relations of the people with the officers of Government remained excellent throughout the Province. The outbreak of the war in Europe gave the people an opportunity of demonstrating their loyalty and good-will towards Government; offers of assistance were freely made and the appeal for subscriptions to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund met with a gratifying response.

3. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., LL.D., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, from the 9th April 1914 till the close of the year under report. In the earlier part of the year Sir Benjamin Robertson was on deputation in South Africa in connection with the enquiry into the grievances of Indians resident in the Union, and the office of Chief Commissioner was held by the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S.

Legislation.

4. The first meeting of the Central Provinces Legislative Council was held on the 17th August 1914. The Council was composed of fifteen nominated members of whom eleven were officials, and ten elected members. During the year two bills were passed, and five bills, of which the most important were the Central Provinces Excise Bill, the Central Provinces Slaughter of Animals Bill, and the Central Provinces Land Revenue Bill, were introduced.

Feudatory States.

5. During the year the Feudatory Chief of Sakti died and was succeeded by his adopted son, Raja Liladhar Singh. Owing to a monsoon which gave sufficient and evenly distributed rain, the harvests were in general good, and the condition of the people remained satisfactory in spite of a continued rise in the price of food-grains. The land revenue was for the most part easily and fully realized; only four States found it necessary to grant remissions or suspensions to any considerable extent. Trade was somewhat affected by the war, but employment was ample, wages tended upwards, and the year was normally healthy and free from any serious epidemic. In a majority of the States there was an increase in the number of criminal offences reported, but the number of admissions to jails decreased on the whole. Settlement operations were carried on in Bastar, Raigarh and Khairagarh, and a boundary dispute between the Nandgaon State and Drug District was decided. The financial condition of all the States was satisfactory.

Condition of the People.

6. The agricultural season of 1914-15 was, on the whole, disappointing. In spite of ample rainfall up to the end of September, the outturn of the autumn crops did not exceed the normal, while the spring crops suffered considerably on account of a subsequent deficiency in rain. Owing to the outbreak of the war the previous year's high prices of food-stuffs continued, a slight fall in the price of rice being counterbalanced by a rise in that of wheat, but, except in the Jubbulpore and Narsinghpur Districts where two successive crop failures caused some depression, and in the cotton districts where serious loss resulted from the low prices of cotton, the condition of cultivators and labourers was satisfactory. The year, though less healthy than 1913, was on the whole not markedly below the average. The birth-rate rose from 49.26 to 51.37 and the death-rate from 30.28 to 36.69 per mille. This increase in the death-rate, which leaves it still below the quinquennial mean, was mainly due to plague and cholera which were epidemic during the year.

Realisation of Revenue.

7. The total current demand on account of land revenue proper in the agricultural year 1913-14 amounted to over 1,90 lakhs of rupees, the increase of three lakhs of rupees over the figure of the previous year being due to Settlement changes. There was also due for collection a sum of over three-quarters of a lakh suspended in the previous year. Owing to the unfavourable agricultural year the total remissions amounted to nearly one lakh of rupees, while over twelve lakhs were suspended. Excluding a quarter of a lakh which remained uncollected owing to exceptional causes, the net demand was recovered practically in full with little resort to coercive processes. Owing to the failure of the crops, the advances made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvements Act increased from five-and-a-half to twenty-two-and-three-quarters lakhs. Excluding remissions and suspensions, which it was found necessary to grant on a fairly liberal scale, the total collections were satisfactory.

Survey and Settlement.

8. The local Traverse Survey Party worked in seven districts and the traverse

342 villages. The orders of the Government of India were received on the final reports on the Settlement of the Wardha and Bilaspur (Khalsa) Districts, and the final report for the Damoh District, and a forecast report on the re-settlement of the Balaghat District, were submitted. Settlement operations were in progress in five districts, and map correction preparatory to Settlement in one district.

9. The revision of the patwari halkabandi in two districts resulted in a net **Land Records** reduction of five patwaris. The number of punishments inflicted on patwaris showed a considerable decrease, which was partly due to the abolition of fining in the preceding year. A scheme for the amalgamation of the cadres of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records with those of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars was worked out and submitted, while in Berar four Assistant Superintendents of Land Records and twenty-three Revenue Inspectors were added on account of the introduction and maintenance of the Record-of-Rights.

10. At the beginning of the year there were seventy-three estates under the **Wards'** management of the Court of Wards. Five estates were relinquished during the **Estates** year, while six estates were newly brought under management. The total gross income of the estates amounted to over sixteen lakhs. Owing to the unfavourable agricultural season, out of the rental demand of over seven-and-a-half lakhs of rupees, Rs. 56,691 was suspended and an unsuspended balance of Rs. 39,600 remained due at the close of the year. A large number of estates increased their receipts from forests, but owing to the want of trained staff, the larger forests were not fully exploited. The gross expenditure amounted to over eleven-and-a-half lakhs of rupees. There was a small increase in the cost of management which absorbed fifteen per cent of the income of the estates. Rs. 1,02,691 was devoted to the liquidation of debts out of current income, and the total amount of debt was reduced from Rs. 8,21,310 to Rs. 6,90,256. Home-farm cultivation was carried on in thirty-eight estates with results which varied from a profit of Rs. 10 to a loss of Rs. 8-5-11 per acre. In spite of an unfavourable year, however, loss occurred in five estates only. The education of minor wards received due attention and the policy was continued of associating the older wards, as far as possible, in the management of their estates.

11. The number of offences reported to the Police was 38,974 as compared **Police** with 32,236 in the previous year. The increase was mainly under thefts and house-breakings, mostly of a petty nature, and was due largely to the disturbed economic conditions consequent on poor crops and the outbreak of the war, though in part also to the continued improvement in reporting. The Police had a successful year, and though progress is still slow, the relations between the Police and the public showed steady improvement, particularly in the districts of Berar. There was a slight increase in the percentage of cases investigated and of successful prosecutions. Discretion in the matter of taking up or refusing investigation was wisely exercised, and the higher standard of honesty and consideration displayed in the conduct of investigations was well maintained. There was a decrease in the number of recruits enlisted and an increase in both resignations and desertions; the main reason for this state of affairs is the inadequate pay of the rank and file, and a scheme for a radical revision of the pay and prospects of the lower ranks was considered during the year.

12. The total number of offences reported fell from 44,332 to 43,896. **Criminal** This is the first decrease to be recorded since 1910, and as it was chiefly in **Justice**.

complaint cases it is probable that the high prices due largely to the war made the public reluctant to spend money on petty criminal litigation. The number of cases dismissed under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code rose from 8,779 to 9,017. The percentage of cases disposed of by Stipendiary Magistrates was 71.5, the remainder being dealt with by Honorary and Special Magistrates. The average duration of trials in all Courts decreased from 18.9 days to 18.3. There was a small decrease in the number of appeals for decision in all Courts, while there was little change in the proportion of cases in which the sentence of the Lower Court was upheld. The percentages of convicted persons sentenced to whipping, fine and imprisonment were 3.4, 73.7 and 22.9 respectively.

Prisons.

13. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail rose from 12,136 to 12,347, and there was an increase in the daily average Jail population from 3,584 to 3,846. This increase in Jail population together with the frequent changes in the superior staff owing to the war led to a rise of thirteen per cent in the number of Jail offences. The health of prisoners was exceptionally good; the ratio of deaths per mille falling to 12.48, which is the lowest figure yet recorded. The average cost to Government of each prisoner fell from Rs. 109-12-10 to Rs. 106-15-1, while the average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 16-8-8 against Rs. 14-9-2 in the previous year, and the savings effected by the employment of prison labour substantially increased.

Civil Justice.

14. The fourth Judge in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, who was at first appointed temporarily, continued to work throughout the year. The number of suits instituted fell from 100,200 to 97,622, and their value from 246 lakhs of rupees to 197 lakhs. It appears that the financial crisis of 1913 and the outbreak of the war made the people less willing to embark on litigation. The average value of the suits in Berar remained stationary, but in the Central Provinces, very largely owing to the institution of a single suit valued at 40 lakhs in the previous year, it declined considerably. There was a general reduction in the number of pending suits, though in the Judicial Commissioner's Court the pending file showed a substantial increase. There was a further fall in the duration of original suits, while the average duration of regular appeals increased.

Registration.

15. The total number of registrations fell from 92,650 to 92,601; but the aggregate value of the property affected in the whole Province rose from 513 lakhs to 566 lakhs of rupees. In the first eight months of the year an increase of five per cent in the number of registrations as compared with those of the corresponding period of the previous year had occurred, but the statistics of the last four months were adversely affected by the war. Seventy-five per cent of sales of villages were in favour of agriculturists against seventy-four per cent in 1913.

Municipal Administration.

16. The number of Municipalities remained unaltered, while the only change in constitution was in Wardha, where a new Committee came into existence at the beginning of the year. The total income, excluding debt and extraordinary receipts, rose from Rs. 31,62,928 to Rs. 33,09,175; if Government contributions be left out of consideration, however, the real income from Municipal sources decreased by nearly 8 per cent. Octroi receipts showed a fall of about a lakh and quarter and other taxes of Rs. 20,000. Government contributions, amounting to more than 6½ lakhs of rupees, included grants of over 4 lakhs for sanitary purposes and Rs. 1,15,000 for expenditure on primary school buildings. The

actual expenditure rose from Rs. 31,38,807 to Rs. 36,59,336. Conservancy and sanitation accounted for an increase of Rs. 21,000 and education for an increase of Rs. 90,000. The total closing balances amounted to Rs. 11,72,984, a decrease of about 2 lakhs of rupees. The large balances in some Municipalities are due to the accumulation of a reserve already earmarked for specific objects. Seventeen Municipalities and one Notified Area were indebted to Government on account of loans to the extent of Rs. 24,13,422; their financial position is in all cases satisfactory.

17. The only important constitutional change was the creation of a Local District Board for the Amarwara tahsil in the Chhindwara District. Income and expenditure rose by Rs. 3,74,000 and Rs. 5,38,000 respectively. Government contributions for Education and Civil Works exceeded those of the preceding year by Rs. 4,35,000. The income under Local Rates increased by Rs. 32,000, while that under Cattle Pounds fell by Rs. 24,000. There was an increase of expenditure under each of the three important heads, "Education," "Medical and Sanitation" and "Civil Works." The percentage of total income expended on Public Instruction was 29 in the Central Provinces and 33 in Berar. Closing balances increased in all but eight districts; the largest are still to be found in the Berar Districts, where steps are being taken to utilise the surplus funds. **District Councils and Local Boards.**

18. The formerly overburdened charge of the Southern Circle was relieved Agriculture. by the formation of the cotton country, consisting of Berar and the neighbouring districts of the Central Provinces, into the new Western Circle under a third Deputy Director. The need for financial economy prevented the inauguration of any large project, but during the year it was possible to open a new farm at Betul and to start another on a small scale at Kawardha. The season was on the whole a favourable one and some useful results were obtained on the eight Government farms by way both of research and of demonstration. The work of demonstrating to agriculturists the increased profits to be derived from the employment of improved implements and methods of agriculture, and the use of properly selected seed, was carried on with unremitting energy in all the circles. The value of co-operation in agriculture was illustrated by the production and distribution of a large quantity of selected wheat and cotton seed by means of Seed Farms and Agricultural Unions. The work of the Agricultural College suffered considerably from a serious outbreak of plague which necessitated closure of the College for seven weeks, but the results achieved in spite of adverse circumstances were creditable.

19. The effects of the banking crisis of the previous year, the bad agricultural season in the northern districts, and the outbreak of the war combined to make the conditions of the year 1914-15 exceptionally unfavourable to the Co-operative Credit movement. In spite of these disturbing factors, however, the movement made steady progress. The number of Societies increased from 2,213 to 2,297, the membership from 40,415 to 44,084 and working capital from 65 to 72½ lakhs of rupees. The Provincial Bank had a successful year: its working capital rose from twelve to thirteen lakhs, deposits from five to nine lakhs, and a dividend of four per cent was declared. The Central Banks exercised, on the whole, a wise discretion in adapting their demands for repayment and their treatment of applications for assistance to the difficult agricultural conditions of the year. Their number increased from twenty-eight to twenty-nine, while their working capital rose from Rs. 25,86,613 to Rs. 29,37,460. The number of Rural Societies rose from 2,083 to 2,154 and their membership from 34,242 to 36,981. **Co-operative Credit.**

**Veterinary
Department.**

20. The year was a healthy one for cattle, and the mortality from rinderpest, the most widely destructive of the epidemic diseases, was less than a third of that in the previous year. The calls for inoculation were therefore less numerous than usual, and the number of animals inoculated fell from 94,690 to 47,285. Excluding inoculations, however, nearly a quarter of a million cases of all kinds were treated. The experiments with anthrax serum were a complete success, while with the provision of good accommodation at the new laboratories erected for the Agriculture Department at Nagpur, facilities for research and for the examination of specimens were greatly increased. The permanent appointment of a second Superintendent for the Provinces was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India, and the Administration has since the close of the year given provisional sanction to a higher scale of pay for Veterinary Assistants. The expenditure incurred by the Veterinary Department during the year fell from Rs. 2,59,630 to Rs. 2,10,555.

**Weather and
Crops.**

21. The general average rainfall in the Central Provinces in 1914 was 47'31 inches as compared with a forty-seven years' average of 48'22 inches, and in Berar 41'47 inches against a twenty-one years' average of 31'45. The favourable conditions at sowing time in the Central Provinces caused an expansion of the area under kharif crops by 714,547 acres, or by six per cent, but in Berar there was a decrease of 88,910 acres, or one per cent, owing to the ploughing up of a considerable area sown with cotton which had been washed away or damaged by excessive rain. In the Central Provinces the area placed under juar, cotton and til rose considerably, while the rice area receded by one per cent. The rabi area of the Central Provinces and Berar increased by 828,372, or eleven per cent. The area under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces fell by three per cent from 3,287,906 to 3,202,151 acres, but the area under linseed increased by 291,385 acres, or thirty-two per cent.

Forests.

22. The area under the control of the Forest Department decreased by seventeen square miles. Of the total forest area of 19,667 square miles, 11,360 square miles were managed under regularly sanctioned working-plans, while new plans were in preparation for 5,830 square miles. The total number of forest offences fell, and the reduction took place under all heads of offences except one. Fire-protection was attempted over 11,705 square miles, and 98 per cent of this area was successfully protected at an average cost of Rs. 9-7-0 per square mile. The area subject to systematic exploitation increased by 4,476 acres. The number of cattle grazed in Government Forest fell by 207,976, the incidence for the Province as a whole being 2'8 acres per head, but in spite of the decrease in numbers there was a large increase in the revenue actually realised owing to the introduction of enhanced grazing rates in Berar. The gross revenue rose from Rs. 32,69,894 in the previous year to Rs. 32,73,539, while the expenditure fell from Rs. 20,07,883 to Rs. 18,80,927.

**Mines and
Quarries.**

23. Two new coal mines were opened during the year, raising the total number of collieries in the Provinces from five to seven. The Provincial output of coal rose from 235,650 tons in 1913 to 244,745 tons, and the general average price at the pit-head was Rs. 4-7-3 per ton, or a few annas higher than that of the previous year. The year opened with considerable activity in manganese mining, and the number of mines increased by ten. The outbreak of the war, however, gave a serious set-back to the industry, and the closure of American and Continental markets, as well as the higher freights and insurance charges prevailing,

restricted the output and affected prices. The Provincial output fell from 550,595 to 510,936 tons and its value from Rs. 31,88,390 to Rs. 22,02,272. The extension and full working throughout the year of the Tata Iron and Steel Company's concession at Lohara in the Chanda District raised the quantity of iron extracted from 844 to 16,523 tons. The average number of persons employed in mines was 18,294 against 16,200 in 1913.

24. The new Factory Act was in force in both the Central Provinces and **Manufactures**, Berar throughout the year. The low price of cotton and the outbreak of the war caused the total number of factories to fall from 487 in 1913 to 438, of which thirty-eight remained closed during the year. The total number of operatives employed was 47,159 against 48,842 in the previous year.

25. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic of the year **Trade** amounted to $56\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds valued at $28\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, as compared with $74\frac{3}{4}$ million maunds valued at $38\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees in the preceding year. This large decline both in quantity and value is attributable to the dislocation of trade caused by the outbreak of the war. The bulk of imports decreased from $25\frac{3}{4}$ to 25 million maunds and the value fell from $13\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees. The principal decreases were under metals, brass, copper, commercial forms of wrought iron and steel, machinery and hardware and cutlery. Exports were even more seriously affected; their bulk fell from forty-nine million maunds to thirty-one-and-a-half and their value from twenty-five to sixteen crores of rupees. The chief decreases were under the heads of raw cotton, grain and pulses, manganese ore and oilseeds. The great fall in the price of cotton caused much of the year's crop to be held up in the hope of obtaining better prices, and in the case of grain and pulses the decline in export was almost entirely due to the nervousness of traders who held up stocks, while the decrease in the export of manganese ore was due to the closure of the Central European markets and the lack of sea transport facilities.

26. The year was one of great activity in the Public Works Department, and **Public Works** the expenditure, which amounted to over eighty-seven lakhs, was the largest hitherto incurred in the Province. The outlay on Provincial works accounted for $73\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of the total, and of this sum Rs. 41,82,217 was spent on original works. Large sums were spent on buildings for almost every Department of the Administration: in particular, the requirements of the Police Department absorbed nearly four-and-a-half lakhs, and those of the Department of Law and Justice nearly three lakhs. The expenditure on communications was nearly $30\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, including over $13\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs for original works. Satisfactory progress was made in the construction of important new roads and in the building of bridges and causeways intended to keep important lines of communication open in all seasons. Of the Sanitary works undertaken by the Public Works Department the most notable is the Nagpur Drainage Scheme, with which good progress was made.

27. The monsoon gave ample and well-distributed rain, and lessened the **Irrigation** demand for irrigation. In consequence the area irrigated during the year by the Irrigation Department decreased from 71,021 to 44,405 acres. The total revenue demand was Rs. 1,69,421, of which Rs. 1,41,625 was collected during the year. The expenditure on Protective works was $18\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, on Productive works 26 lakhs and on Minor works 9 lakhs. The difficulty of securing an adequate supply of labour was largely overcome by better arrangements for importing

labour from districts where a surplus existed, and excellent progress in construction was made on nearly all the projects. The head works of the Mahanadi Canal were completed during the year, while those of the Wainganga Canal were nearing completion.

Revenue and Finance.

28. Imperial revenue in the year 1914-15 amounted to 118 lakhs of rupees as compared with 112 lakhs in the preceding year, while expenditure remained at the same figure, 70 lakhs. The increase of six lakhs in receipts is accounted for by a decrease of nearly nine-and-a-half lakhs under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial" owing to the absence of non-recurring assignments and the reduction of the assignment in connection with the Famine Relief Scheme. This decrease counterbalanced decreases which occurred under all other heads except "Land Revenue," "Income-tax" and "Other heads." Provincial Revenue, including an opening balance of 109½ lakhs, amounted to 402½ lakhs, and expenditure to 305 lakhs, leaving a closing balance of 97½ lakhs. In actual revenue, however, there was a decrease of 13½ lakhs. Apart from a fall of 9½ lakhs under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial," the chief decreases were 1½ lakhs under "Stamps," 4½ lakhs under "Excise" and nearly three-quarters of a lakh under "Registration," but there were also increases under several heads, of which the most important were half a lakh under "Land Revenue" and over three-quarters of a lakh under "Forests." The increase in expenditure was distributed under all heads except that of "Reduction or Avoidance of Debt," the largest increases being under "Civil Works," "Irrigation Minor Works" and "Education."

Vital Statistics.

29. The healthiness of the year 1913 was reflected in the birth-rate of the year 1914, which rose to 51.37 per mille, the increase being shared by most of the districts of the Province. The death-rate, however, rose from 30.28 to 36.69 per mille, but was still below the quinquennial mean of 37.05. The proportion of infantile to total mortality was sixty per cent, an increase of three per cent as compared with the previous year, when the figures were exceptionally good. Among the chief diseases, small-pox alone claimed fewer victims than last year. The ravages of cholera were particularly severe, while serious epidemics of plague occurred in Nagpur, Saugor and Hoshangabad, spreading subsequently to other districts. The number of inoculations against plague rose from 2,046 to 7,994. The fever mortality increased by 2.81 per mille, and dysentery and diarrhoea were also responsible for an unusually high mortality.

Emigration.

30. With the return of more stable economic conditions there was a large decline in recruitment. In the mining and cotton tracts the local demand for labour more than fully absorbed the supply, and recruiting from outside went on for the manganese mines. In consequence the number of recruiting agents fell from 5,029 to 4,539 and the number of coolies recruited from 8,063 to 6,110. Moreover, by far the large proportion of coolies recruited for Assam came from the Native States adjoining the Central Provinces.

Medical Relief.

31. There was a net increase in the number of hospitals and dispensaries during the year from 272 to 273. Of this number 29 were maintained by the State, 166 by Local Bodies and 29 by Railways, the remainder being either private or State-aided institutions. The total number of patients treated at dispensaries was 1,746,424 as compared with 1,674,980 in the preceding year which was exceptionally healthy. The number of surgical operations performed rose again from 47,622 to 49,029. The total receipts

was due to an increase in the Government contribution, but it is satisfactory that private subscriptions showed a further increase of Rs. 22,041. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 6,29,549 to Rs. 9,10,185, buildings and repairs accounting for an increase of over one-and-a-half lakhs.

32. Good progress was made during the year both in the construction of **Sanitation** works and in the investigation of new projects. The most important water-works schemes in connection with which construction work was carried on were those of Akola, Arvi, Buldana and Damoh. The main drainage schemes on which work was in progress were those of Wardha, Nagpur and Harda. The Wardha drainage scheme was completed, while the outlay on the Nagpur project up to the end of the year amounted to seven-and-three-quarters lakhs of rupees. The year was one of increased activity in Municipal towns, and the Sanitary Board performed a large amount of useful consultative work. The opening up of congested areas, the introduction of building rules and the construction of market stalls, public latrines and protected wells made steady progress. The provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to six villages and withdrawn from one during the year.

33. The total number of vaccination operations performed in British **Vaccination** territory was 602,643 as compared with 622,376 in the preceding year. The decrease, which occurred in re-vaccinations only, was attributed to outbreaks of plague and to transfers of officers owing to the war. In Municipal towns the number of infants successfully vaccinated was 26,516, or 91 per cent of the children available, an increase of seven per cent over the preceding year. Owing to limited accommodation the Central Vaccine Depot at Nagpur was unable to supply lymph on a large scale, but the special Depot buildings, for which Government gave a grant of half a lakh of rupees, were under construction, and when they are complete, the supply of lymph will be extended to the whole Province. The total expenditure was Rs. 95,604 against Rs. 84,241 in the previous year, and the cost of each successful vaccination rose from Re. 0-2-3 to Re. 0-2-6. This increase was due to the improvement in the pay of the staff and to the additional establishment entertained at the Central Vaccine Depot.

34. The cadre of the Indian Educational Service was strengthened by the **Education** addition of a third post of Head Master and two posts of Inspectors of Schools. The number of Circles will be increased to seven, and sanction has been given to the appointment of an Assistant Inspector for each Circle, the present number of these officers being only three. The pay of Assistant Inspectresses in the Provincial Educational Service and of the Head Mistress of the Girls' High School, Amraoti, was improved. Some personal allowances were also granted to officers in the Provincial Service pending the reorganisation of that Service. The year's figures show an increase of 210 in the number of schools, and 9,213 in the number of scholars. This increase was not, however, so large as that recorded in 1913-14. In the primary stage of education, where alone the decline in the rate of increase was noticeable, the presence of plague and cholera, and possibly to some extent financial depression resulting from the war, affected attendance, while habitual absentees were struck off the rolls and unwieldy classes were brought within the limits imposed by staff and accommodation. There was a marked increase in the number of Secondary Schools and scholars, particularly in Berar, where the demand for Secondary education is growing. Six new High Schools were opened and thirty-two new Middle Schools were brought under recognition by the Department.

In the matter of Collegiate education interest centred in the report of the Central Provinces and Berar University Committee, which was submitted to the Local Administration at the close of the year. The future development of the existing Colleges depends in large measure on the part assigned them in the scheme of the Provincial University, while the Colleges of the future will come into existence as definite parts of the proposed University. In these circumstances, it is inevitable that many problems in connection with Collegiate education should await the decision on the University scheme and that the Colleges should not be committed meanwhile to developments which may have no part in that scheme. The administration and progress of the Colleges, however, during the year were satisfactory, and an increase of 164 in the number of College students necessitated increases in the staff of all the Colleges. The growth of female education was well maintained. The number of pupils in institutions for Indian girls rose from 18,524 to 19,006, while there was an increase of thirty-eight in the strength of Anglo-Vernacular Middle and High Schools, and four candidates passed the Matriculation Examination.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

At pages 1 to 54 of the Administration Report for 1911-12 will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference:—

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE
AND CHIEF STAPLES

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN
THE ADMINIS-
TRATION

2. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., LL.D., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, from the 9th April 1914 till the close of the year under report. In the earlier part of the year Sir Benjamin Robertson was on deputation in South Africa in connection with the enquiry into the grievances of Indians resident in the Union, and the office of Chief Commissioner was held by the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS
WITH
FEUDATORY
STATES
General.

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1914.]

3. During the year the Feudatory Chief of Sakti died and was succeeded by his adopted son, Raja Liladhar Singh. An heir was born to the Chief of Khairagarh. Raja Jawahir Singh, Feudatory Chief of Sarangarh, was nominated a member of the newly-constituted Central Provinces Legislative Council. The new Chief of Sakti was married and the Chief of Udaipur celebrated his second marriage. The senior Maharani Sahiba of Kanker died, and the Chief has, since the close of the year, celebrated his third marriage. The Chhuikhadan State remained under management during the year under report, but the Chief, Mahant Bhudhar Kishore Das, was installed shortly after its close. The minor Chief of Nandgaon joined the Rajkumar College, Raipur.

4. The monsoon was well sustained and gave sufficient and evenly distributed rain, the aggregate rainfall in almost all States being higher than in the previous year, and there was some extension of the area under cultivation. Some loss was caused to the autumn crops by excessive rain in Bastar, Kanker, Surguja and Raigarh, and the spring crop in Kawardha was damaged by a hailstorm; with these exceptions harvests were in general good.

5. Trade was generally normal except in Raigarh, where it was adversely affected by the war. Large quantities of rice and wheat were exported from Bastar to the neighbouring Native States and British districts, causing a local rise in prices. Labour was ample, a shortage being reported from Khairagarh State alone, and wages were good.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

Condition of the people.

6. The year was peaceful and the general condition of the people was satisfactory. Prices of food-grains increased, but no distress was reported in any of the States except Kawardha, where the failure of the rice and kodon crops in 1913 necessitated forest concessions and remissions of revenue, relief being also afforded by the opening of tank-works. Agricultural loans to a considerable amount were advanced in Kawardha and Korea, and smaller sums in Raigarh and Sarangarh. In two or three States wages showed an upward tendency. Cholera appeared in some villages in Chhuikhadan and Nandgaon, but not in epidemic form. Outbreaks of small-pox occurred in Surguja, Raigarh and Chhuikhadan. In Raigarh also the mortality from malaria was again high. On the whole, however, the year was a normally healthy one. No epidemic cattle-disease was reported.

Finance.

7. The financial condition of the States was generally satisfactory. The sanction of the Government of India was received to a loan of Rs. 5,000 in favour of the Feudatory Chief of Changbhakar. The loan was granted for expenditure on agricultural loans, advances to facilitate the import of grain and the improvement of nistar tanks.

Land Revenue.

8. There was an increase in the land revenue demand of nine States. The demand was for the most part easily and fully realized, only four States finding it necessary to grant remissions or suspensions on anything but a trifling scale. In Surguja and Udaipur alone was recourse to coercive processes necessary.

Settlement.

9. Settlement operations were completed in five groups of the Jagdalpur tahsil of the Bastar State; further Settlement operations in this State have been postponed on account of a decrease in the area under cultivation. In Raigarh a regular Settlement of the Tarapur Zamindari, consisting of 37 villages, was effected for a period of ten years. Settlement operations were also in progress in the Khairagarh State and announcement was made in 119 villages. A boundary dispute between the Nandgaon State and the Drug District was settled. The disputes between the Bastar State and the Madras Presidency, between the Jashpur State and Gangpur State in Bihar and Orissa and between the Khairagarh and Nandgaon States remained undecided at the close of the year.

Criminal Law and Justice.

10. The number of reported offences increased in nine of the States, while it decreased in five and remained the same in one. Sixteen cases of heinous crime were reported in four States, of which seven occurred in Kanker alone. The number of Criminal and Civil Courts increased by four in Bastar and by one in Sakti. Criminal Courts in Nandgaon rose from three to five, while Civil Courts in Udaipur and Kawardha decreased by one each. The Feudatory Chief of Chhuikhadan was invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate.

Jails.

11. The number of admissions to Jail showed a decrease on the whole as compared with the previous year, and the health of the prisoners was good. The new Jail buildings in Khairagarh were completed. In Sakti, in addition to aloepounding, oil-pressing and rope-making which formed the principal industries in the Jail, more profitable industries such as the manufacture of cloth, carpets and *tat-patti*, and an improved system of gardening were introduced during the year.

Forests.

12. With the exception of Bastar, Surguja, Jashpur and Chhuikhadan, all States showed an increase in forest income. A large increase in the Makrai State was due to the opening of a new coupe. In Bastar an area of 20 square miles was excluded from reserved forest. The reserves remained open during the year for the collection of dry wood, grass, leaves, fruits and roots. In Raigarh the license-fees were raised. Minor forest offences were again numerous in the Sarangarh State.

Excise.

13. In ten out of the fifteen States there was an increase in Excise revenue. A decrease in Makrai is attributed to the partial failure of the rabi crops, and in Raigarh the consumption of liquor is reported to be diminishing. In the same State, however, there was an increase of one in the number of liquor shops, while opium and ganja shops decreased by four. Two more liquor shops were open in Changbhakar. In Bastar Excise income increased, though the number of liquor shops decreased by twenty-three and the number of ganja shops by four.

The contract supply system was introduced in the course of the year in the Khairagarh and Nandgaon States and an Excise Inspector was appointed in Khairagarh to supervise its working. Smuggling of *baluchar* ganja from the Sambalpur district into the Raigarh and Sarangarh States continued, and the smuggling of ganja from the Rewah State into Changbhakar was again suspected. In Khairagarh seven persons were convicted of offences under the Excise Act.

14. Education continued to make good progress and there was a general **Education.** rise in the number of pupils receiving instruction in the schools, only four States showing a slight fall. Four new schools were opened, one each in the Udaipur, Jashpur, Raigarh and Nandgaon States. A marked advance was made in female education, especially in the States of Kanker, Sarangarh and Nandgaon, in which the number of girls receiving instruction showed a considerable increase over the previous year. In all the States, except Khairagarh and Changbhakar, expenditure on education increased during the year. The Vernacular Middle School at Jagdalpur in the Bastar State was reduced to the status of a Hindi Branch School, while the English Middle School at Ambikapur in the Surguja State was raised to the status of a High School; a special building for this institution was under construction. In Chhuikhadan five new school buildings were erected in the course of the year. The new High School building in Raigarh was completed.

15. All the States, except Bastar and Jashpur, increased their expenditure **Public Works.** on public works. In Raigarh the installation of water-works absorbed a large part of the total expenditure of the year, and other important buildings completed included a Town Hall, High School and Guest House. In Khairagarh twelve buildings of public utility were completed and some culverts were constructed on the Nandgaon-Khairagarh and Dongargarh-Pandaria roads.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

16. Although the monsoon of 1914 provided ample and evenly distributed rainfall up to the end of September, the outturn of kharif crops did not exceed **The Season.** the normal. This was due, partly to the injury caused by insects to the rice crop, partly to the comparative neglect of cotton cultivation which resulted from the fall in prices consequent on the outbreak of war. The rabi-sowing season was favourable, but insufficient rain in October, succeeded by cloudy weather in November, disappointed to some extent the hopes that had been entertained of a fine spring harvest. In almost all the northern districts the winter rains were poor, and these were followed, at harvest time, by heavy storms and hail which injured the gathered crops. Thus, in spite of a good start, the outturn of rabi crops for the Province as a whole was only 80 to 85 per cent of a normal crop. Owing to the outbreak of war the previous year's high prices of food-stuffs continued, a slight fall in the price of rice being counterbalanced by a rise in that of wheat. The prices of rice and juar eased off considerably after the harvest was gathered, but wheat remained very dear throughout the year. Fodder and water were sufficient throughout the Provinces during the year under report.

The effects of the war were, perhaps, most felt by the weaving classes in Nagpur and Burhanpur, which were seriously affected by the long-continued high prices of food-grains and by the reduction in the demand for, and the value of, their fabrics. Relief was, however, promptly organised for them. The economic pressure was also indicated by an increase in crime and a fall in the Excise revenue, while there was some contraction of employment in the cotton tracts. With regard to agriculture, the year was, on the whole, a disappointing one. Both in the Jubbulpore and Narsinghpur districts the agriculturists were in a somewhat depressed condition owing to two successive failures of the spring crops, notwithstanding the high prices they got for their produce. Elsewhere the condition of both agriculturists and labourers was generally satisfactory. The year, though less healthy than 1913, was on the whole not markedly below the average. The birth-rate rose from 49.26 to 51.37 and the death-rate from 30.28 to 36.69 per mille. This increase in the death-rate, which leaves it still below the quinquennial mean, was mainly due to plague and cholera which were epidemic during the year.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

REALISATION OF REVENUE

I—REALISATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1913-14.]

Central Provinces.

17. The total malguzari demand of land revenue on the roll in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 99,43,610 against Rs. 96,42,639 in the preceding year, this increase of just over three lakhs of rupees being mainly due to the Settlement operations in the Saugor, Nimar and Nagpur districts. The demand on account of arrears of land revenue at the beginning of the year was Rs. 81,364; Rs. 52,629 was remitted, Rs. 14,690 suspended, and the balance was collected in full. The total remissions amounted to Rs. 96,845, chiefly in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, and suspensions totalled Rs. 12,16,924, of which the Jubbulpore Division accounted for Rs. 6,93,704 and the Chhattisgarh Division for Rs. 4,61,329. The net demand for collection was Rs. 85,91,329, of which Rs. 85,64,444 was actually collected, leaving an unsuspended balance of Rs. 26,885. Of this sum the Jubbulpore district alone accounted for Rs. 20,084, being the amount due from a wealthy landowner in temporary difficulties owing to the financial crisis; while the arrears of Rs. 6,602 in the Saugor district were due to the Settlement operations in progress. With these two exceptions the current demand was realised almost in full, a result indicating that sufficient leniency was shown in the grant of suspensions and remissions. As regards land revenue not on the roll and miscellaneous land revenue there is little which calls for comment beyond an increase of over a lakh of rupees in miscellaneous revenue in the Nerbudda Division, which was mainly due to the sale by auction of a large number of escheated malik-makbuza plots in Nimar. In Narsinghpur a sum of nearly Rs. 80,000 was due from the Mohpani Colliery on account of royalty; this demand had gradually accumulated for several years, pending the Government of India's decision of the claim against the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Orders have now been received for the collection of the amount due.

Berar.

18. There were no arrears from the previous year to be realised, but the demand on account of fixed collections increased from Rs. 91,16,774 to Rs. 91,21,570. This increase was mainly due to extension of cultivation and to appropriation of small plots to purposes other than agriculture. Apart from a sum of Rs. 475, which was remitted in a deserted area in the Melghat which has since been afforested, the whole demand was collected except a small item of Rs. 29, due from an absconding cultivator in the Yeotmal district, whose holding has been forfeited. In the fluctuating and miscellaneous collections there was an increase of Rs. 14,784, chiefly due to the realisation of measurement and *parcha* fees in connection with the Record-of-Rights.

Coercive processes.

19. In the Central Provinces the unsuspended revenue was collected with considerable ease judging by the number of coercive processes issued. There was a decrease as compared with the previous year under each class of process, while the number of sales after attachment was the same as last year. One village in the Nimar district was taken under direct management on the ground that its absentee proprietor was a habitual defaulter. In Berar too the substantial decrease in the number of coercive processes issued was satisfactory, the Buldana record again being a particularly good one.

20. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1915 :—

Government
loans.

*Statement showing Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal)
for the Financial year ending 31st March 1915.*

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, i. e., on the 1st April 1914.	5,86,795 2 2	42 12 9	13,94,743 6 0	...
Remitted during the year 1914-15	593 12 6	...	250 11 8	...
Collected do. do.	6,83,399 15 4	11 0 0	2,30,066 12 2	...
Advanced do. do.	16,71,757 14 4	...	4,12,772 12 3	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, i. e., on the 31st March 1915.	15,74,559 4 8	31 12 9	15,77,198 10 5	...

21. The failure of the crops in the autumn of 1913 led to a greatly increased demand for loans from Government, and the advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvement Loans Act during the revenue year 1913-14 increased from a little over four lakhs to thirteen-and-a-half lakhs, and from three-quarters of a lakh to nearly eight lakhs of rupees, respectively. There was an increase in every Division, but the largest allotments were naturally made in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions, where the crop failure was most pronounced. These two Divisions absorbed more than three-quarters of the total outlay under both Acts. In view of the large sums advanced and the temptations to divert them to other purposes, the number of cases in which misapplication of loans came to light was remarkably few. It was found necessary to grant remissions and suspensions on a fairly liberal scale, but, leaving these out of account, the total collections were satisfactory. As was anticipated in last year's Report, the result of the working of the transactions under the two Acts in the Central Provinces was a loss to Government of Rs. 30,369.

Central
Provinces.

22. In Berar the advances made to cultivators during the financial year under the two Acts amounted to Rs. 1,28,580, a considerable increase over the preceding year's figure of Rs. 86,000. The loans were granted with discrimination and promptitude and were easily recovered. The net result of the year's working under both Acts was a small profit to Government of Rs. 12,234.

Berar.

2—SURVEYS

SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1914.]

23. The traverse survey party worked in 7 districts and the traverse amounted to 1,781 linear miles of survey in 434 villages, in addition to sub-traverse in 342 villages. The Assistant Settlement Officer in charge also supervised the traversing of boundary lines in certain Feudatory States and Zamindaris. With a view to securing economical utilisation of the staff and a thorough overhauling of the condition and adequacy of the existing traverse, the Settlement Commissioner is arranging a Provincial programme of traverse work in which the districts will be taken up in regular order.

SETTLEMENT

3—SETTLEMENT

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1914 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1914.]

24. During the year the orders of the Government of India were received on the final reports for the Wardha and Bilaspur (Khalsa) districts. The final report for the Damoh district and a forecast report on the re-settlement of the Balaghat district were submitted. Operations were in progress during the year in the following districts :—

Nimar.—Attestation was completed last year and all that remained over was the rent-rating of 186 malguzari and 99 ryotwari villages and the assessment of 375 malguzari and 178 ryotwari villages. This work was completed and the final report submitted to the Settlement Commissioner during the course of the year.

Saugor.—The attestation of the district was practically completed. 769 villages were attested by the Settlement Officer. Rent-rate Reports for 541 villages and Assessment Reports for 613 villages were submitted. Revised assessments were announced in 648 villages, but work was hampered by a severe outbreak of cholera and the partial failure of the monsoon. The fairness of the revised rents was generally acknowledged by both malguzars and tenants.

Nagpur.—Attestation was completed in 586 villages. Rent-rate Reports for 516 villages and Assessment Reports for 522 villages were submitted, and announcement was made in 668 villages. Map correction work was completed.

Hoshangabad.—Orders to commence Settlement operations were received from the Government of India at the beginning of the year under report and in spite of initial difficulties good progress was made. Attestation of the Sohagpur tahsil, comprising 410 villages, was completed and Rent-rate Reports for 104 villages were submitted. The maps of the Hoshangabad and Seoni-Malwa tahsils were brought up to date.

Chhindwara.—Though operations were commenced late in the year, 490 villages were attested and Rent-rate Reports for 163 villages were submitted. The difficulties of map correction were great on account of the broken nature of the country, the unreliability of the existing maps and the insufficiency of traverse and sub-traverse marks, but the maps of 304 villages were corrected, and resurvey carried out in 49 villages.

Balaghat.—Map correction was carried out in 457 villages.

LAND
RECORDS

4—LAND RECORDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1914.]

Land Records
establishment.

25. The patwari halkabandi of the Nimar district was revised and eleven patwaris were added to the establishment, while in Narsinghpur, where the number of patwaris was excessive, sixteen circles were abolished on the death of the incumbents. A scheme for the amalgamation of the cadres of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records with the subordinate executive Civil Service was worked out and submitted. In some districts the pay of patwaris was improved by bringing them on the graded scale. This reform is coming into force, district by district, according to urgency. In Berar the strength of the establishment was considerably increased so as to enable it to deal with the extra work caused by the introduction and maintenance of the Record-of-Rights. An additional Assistant Superintendent of Land Records was appointed for each district, and the staff of Revenue Inspectors and measurers was also strengthened by twenty-three and five posts respectively. The question of the recruitment of competent Revenue Inspectors presented great difficulty owing to the lack of an adequate recruiting field. Steps are being taken to evolve a system adapted to local needs.

Boundary
marks.

26. Village boundary marks in the Central Provinces were generally maintained in a satisfactory condition. Circle and village note-books were up to date in all the districts except Jubbulpore, Bilaspur, and districts where Settlement operations were in progress. Circle note-books were up to date in all the districts of Berar.

27. The checking of village papers by Revenue Inspectors, though sufficient in quantity, was still lacking in quality, but a marked improvement was noticeable in the quality of check by Superintendents of Land Records and their Assistants, their check of Revenue Inspectors' work being generally satisfactory. The amount of checking done by Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants diminished to some extent and the attention of Deputy Commissioners was invited to this matter. In Berar the amount of work done by Revenue Inspectors was satisfactory, except in Buldana and Akola, where the lowness of the outturn was attributed to the Record-of-Rights operations. Superintendents of Land Records and their Assistants again showed a tendency to neglect the important check of Revenue Inspectors' work in favour of the independent checking of the work of patwaris.

28. Good progress was made with the preparation of the Record-of-Rights. The record was prepared in the Basim, Chikli, Mehkar and Pusad taluqs, where considerable difficulty was experienced as many of the landholders were resident in the Nizam's dominions. It was announced in the Akola, Balapur, Mangrul, Malkapur and Khamgaon taluqs. The preparation and maintenance of this record, which is the most important feature of the Revenue Administration in Berar, is being keenly watched by the people, who readily avail themselves of the records of title thus placed within their reach.

29. In the Central Provinces the number of punishments inflicted on patwaris showed a considerable decrease, which was partly due to the abolition of fining in the preceding year. Twenty-three Revenue Inspectors were punished, and the conduct and discipline of the superior Land Record staff generally was reported to be somewhat unsatisfactory. It is hoped that the amalgamation of the cadre of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records with that of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars will result in the recruitment of a better class of man to the former service. The general conduct of patwaris in Berar was satisfactory and the number of punishments inflicted was small. Their work, however, was not of high quality. This is to be attributed chiefly to the system of substitute patwaris that prevails. The malik patwaris, for the most part, refuse either to work themselves or to pay adequately the substitutes they provide. The attention of Deputy Commissioners has been called to the necessity of insisting upon reform in this respect. The work of Revenue Inspectors was good; only eight of the permanent staff were not fully qualified.

5—WASTE LANDS

WASTE LANDS

[Reports on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1913-14.]

30. The total area available for allotment at the beginning of the year was 286,980 acres, of which 68,774 acres were allotted during the year. After allowing for relinquishments, the balance at the end of the year was 267,037 acres. The total area included in occupied survey numbers showed a rise of 38,500 acres in the province as a whole. Four of the six districts in which the ryotwari estate covers an important area contributed towards this increase. The increase of 14,998 acres in the Chanda district was attributed largely to the declaration of patch cultivation villages to be regularly settled ryotwari villages, while the increases of 15,770 acres in Nimar and 9,149 acres in Mandla were probably due to normal extension of cultivation as the result of a series of prosperous years. In Betul there was an insignificant fall, but a more serious decrease took place in Balaghat, where the shrinkage, which amounted to 2,612 acres, was attributed partly to the proximity of Government forests and partly to the increase in the number of deer and pig due to the destruction of tigers. The progress of these ryotwari villages, many of which are situated in the most backward tracts, was stimulated by a policy of effecting improvements at the cost of public funds, including the establishment of dispensaries. In Chanda a scheme of colonization from outside failed, but the pressure of population in the adjacent villages is likely in the course of time to be sufficient to supply cultivators for the available area on ordinary ryotwari terms.

31. In Berar the area available for cultivation in Khalsa villages was 32,313 acres and the area allotted during the year was 4,041 acres. A large number of

small blocks of C Class forest, scattered all over the Division and comprising an area of 29,553 acres of land, were disforested and added to the free grazing area which is managed as village waste.

GOVERNMENT
ESTATES

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

32. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

WARDS'
ESTATES

7—WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of private estates for the year ending the 30th September 1914.]

Wards'
Estates.

33. At the beginning of the year there were 73 estates under the management of the Court of Wards. Six more estates were brought under management during the year and five were relinquished, leaving a balance of 74 at the close of the year. The total area of the 71 estates, which remained under management throughout the year and for which statistics were furnished, was 6,341,771 acres. All the five estates relinquished had prospered under the Court of Wards management and were restored to their proprietors, not only free from any encumbrances, but with cash balances or invested funds to their credit.

Income.

34. The total gross income excluding loans received and opening balance amounted to Rs. 16,08,019, including Rs. 7,13,019 on account of rents, Rs. 4,56,674 on account of forests and Rs. 4,38,324 on account of miscellaneous sources. Owing to the serious failure of the crops in the Jubbulpore Division and poor crops in most districts of the other Divisions, the rental demand in many of the estates was reduced by suspensions, and some difficulty was found in certain of the estates in collecting even the full unsuspended demand. Out of a normal demand of Rs. 7,57,634, Rs. 56,691 was suspended and Rs. 6,51,922 collected, leaving an unsuspended balance of Rs. 39,600. The percentage of collections on the net current demand for the province as a whole was 98. A large number of estates increased their receipts from forests, but the great difficulty in forest management, the want of trained staff, still continued during the year, and in the absence of such staff the full exploitation of the larger forests and the receipt of full profits from them was impossible. It was therefore decided to take advantage of the Balaghat Forest School and train a certain number of men for employment in those estates which contain important areas of forest. In one estate in Chhindwara the construction of a road, though undertaken primarily as a relief work, yielded a large return in rendering the market more accessible for the sale of forest produce.

Expenditure.

35. The total gross ordinary expenditure of the year increased from Rs. 11,51,600 to Rs. 11,59,612. Owing to suspensions of revenue in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions, there was a fall in the charges under this head. The expenses on account of management for the province as a whole absorbed 15 per cent of the income of the estates as against 14 per cent in the previous year, and though in some estates it absorbed 20 per cent or over, this was generally due to the presence of large forests, for the collection of the income from which a large establishment was required. Personal expenses showed an increase, but this was partly accounted for by the fact that, in estates where the ward was given home-farm from which to support himself, it was necessary to make cash grants to compensate him for the failure of the crops. There was also a large increase in expenditure on estate improvements, which amounted to Rs. 2,09,522, the main increase being in the Nerbudda and Chhattisgarh Divisions. Other investments by estates rose from Rs. 1,46,587 to Rs. 1,56,456.

Debts.

36. Good progress was again made in the liquidation of debts due by encumbered estates. Rs. 1,02,691 was paid off out of current income and Rs. 60,117 by the sale of property, while, excluding debts incurred to consolidate and pay off existing debts, further debts to the extent of Rs. 31,754 were incurred. The total amount of debts on all the estates at the beginning of the year was reduced from Rs. 8,21,310 to Rs. 6,90,256.

General.

37. The relations between the Court of Wards and its tenants continued to be excellent, and the latter were treated everywhere with the utmost

consideration. Advances of taccavi or seed were naturally heavier than in the previous year owing to the character of the season. Home-farm cultivation was carried on by the Court of Wards in thirty-eight estates. Excluding two estates where the area is negligible, the results varied from a profit of Rs. 10 to a loss of Rs. 8-5-11 per acre. In spite of an unfavourable year, loss occurred in five estates only out of the thirty-eight. New rules have been framed for the keeping of home-farm accounts and special rules laid down for calculating the net profits derived from such cultivation. The education of minor wards continued to receive due attention, though in some cases the success attained was not what it might have been, and the policy was continued of associating the older wards, as far as possible, in the management of their estates.

8—REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1914 and of Berar for the year ending 31st July 1914.]

38. The monsoon of 1913 was quite satisfactory up to the end of August, but early in September there was a premature cessation of the rains. October was almost rainless, resulting in a failure of crops which was extensive and serious in the Jubbulpore, Damoh and Mandla districts, and very considerable in the rest of the Jubbulpore Division, part of the Nerbudda Division and most of Chhattisgarh. Owing to the dryness of the soil the rabi-sowing season was most unfavourable and the area sown with rabi was 11 per cent smaller than in the previous year. Rain in December, however, prevented any very considerable deterioration on the area that it had been possible to sow. In March 1914 hailstorms did considerable damage in Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur.

General
Conditions.
Central
Provinces.

39. In Berar, conditions were more favourable than in the Central Provinces. The monsoon broke early in June and the rainfall throughout the Division was considerably above the average. The rain, however, was not very well distributed, as few falls were received after the end of the 1st week of September. In three of the four districts, however, it was reported to be generally sufficient for agricultural purposes. Only in the Amraoti district, which had, however, been favoured above all others by the previous year's monsoon, did the failure of the autumn and winter rains have any pronounced effect.

Berar.

40. In the Central Provinces the conditions of the year were such as to put the resources of the agricultural classes in many parts to a severe test. As a result of the early cessation of the rainfall the kharif crops were very poor, the most successful being tur (arhar), which, though widely sown, is nowhere reckoned as a staple. Though good winter rains caused the rabi harvest to exceed expectations, and the average outturn of wheat, gram and linseed together was three-fourths of a normal crop, in several of the most important wheat-growing districts only half or less than half of a normal harvest was reaped. In these circumstances it was found necessary to have recourse to direct measures of famine relief in the three districts of Jubbulpore, Damoh and Mandla, but elsewhere the situation was adequately met by the expansion of ordinary work, the grant of forest concessions, the suspension of land revenue and the distribution of taccavi on a liberal scale. There was no manifestation of any severe distress, and the most serious effect of the calamity was the depletion of wheat stocks and the shortage of good seed for the following year. The total area occupied for cultivation increased by 49,529 acres, the expansion of 33,445 acres in the tenant area of the Chhattisgarh Division being specially noticeable. In Berar, though the outturn of the important cotton crop was somewhat below normal, and the price received for it below that of recent years, on the whole the year was a prosperous one. There was a small increase of 3,669 acres in the total occupied area, and the outturn of almost all crops was little less than normal, as against 75 per cent of the normal in the previous year. In both the Central Provinces and Berar the year was on the whole a healthy one; cholera and small-pox appeared in places in an epidemic form, but plague was again almost entirely absent.

41. In the Central Provinces the comparative ease with which the people sustained the effects of a poor season brought out very clearly the stability of the position attained by both cultivators and labourers as the result of

a series of generally prosperous years. Malguzars and tenants with substantial holdings had sufficient reserves and took full advantage of the comparative cheapness of labour to build houses and improve their land; the smaller tenants undoubtedly felt the pinch more severely, but, with the assistance afforded by Government, were able to eke out the scanty harvest in various ways; and labourers, though they did not everywhere retain the commanding position which they had held in previous years, found ample employment at rates which, at the worst, assured them a living wage in spite of the rise in the prices of all the staple food-grains. In Berar extensive Railway and other public works ensured a strong demand for labour, and the labouring classes enjoyed the same high rates of wages as in the previous year. In a few districts of the Central Provinces cattle suffered to some extent from a shortage of fodder, but no abnormal mortality was reported, while in Berar the acuteness of the fodder question was relieved, partly by the abundant rainfall, partly by the disforestation of scattered patches of Government forests, which, though of little value as timber-providing areas, were a useful supplement to the scanty village grazing grounds.

42. The relations of the people with the officers of Government were excellent throughout the Province. The outbreak of the war in Europe gave the people an opportunity of demonstrating their fundamental loyalty and good-will towards Government; offers of assistance were freely made on all sides and the appeal for subscriptions to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund met with a gratifying response. In the Central Provinces the Co-operative Credit movement, though handicapped by agricultural conditions and the financial crisis which was brought about by bank failures, made steady progress and was of material help in enabling cultivators to tide over the unfavourable season. In Berar a noteworthy measure of success attended the efforts to win the co-operation of the leading members of the agricultural community, as a result of which the enhancement of the grazing rates was introduced without friction, crime was better reported, and certain malpractices in connection with the preparation of the Record-of-Rights were checked. Co-operative Credit here too made some advance, especially in the three districts, Amraoti, Yeotmal and Buldana, in which the movement has till now been least vigorous. The Agricultural and Veterinary Departments continued their good work of overcoming conservative prejudice, and the people everywhere showed increasing confidence in their officers.

Tenants.

43. The statistics of rental collection reflected the agricultural conditions of the year, and the percentage of realisation on account of current demand and arrears varied very considerably from district to district. Balaghat headed the list with a percentage of 96, and in the Nagpur Division generally collections were normal except in the Bhandara district. In the other Divisions suspensions and remissions of revenue necessitated similar concessions in the realisation of rents; collections were generally less than in the preceding year, but, considering the adverse conditions, the recovery of rents was as good as could be expected. The total area included in holdings in the Central Provinces showed a further rise of 71,023 acres. Every Division contributed towards the increase, the expansion in area varying from 2,216 acres in the Nerbudda Division to 33,445 in the Chhattisgarh Division.

Landlords.

44. The area held as *sir* increased in all Divisions except Chhattisgarh, in which there was no Settlement in progress to counterbalance the shrinkage which occurs when villages are sold with reservation of occupancy rights in the *sir* land. The *khudkasht* area decreased by 28,167 acres owing to the conferment of *sir* rights, the recording of land as unoccupied after it had lain fallow for three years, and the fact that *khudkasht* lessees acquired ordinary tenant rights. The tendency noticed in the preceding year for tenants to increase their holdings somewhat more rapidly than the rate of expansion of the home-farm was again evident. The percentage of the occupied area held by landlords fell slightly from 18.84 to 18.68.

Landlords and tenants. Central Provinces.

45. No important measures were undertaken which affected in any way the relations between landlords and tenants, which continued to be satisfactory. Active oppression on the part of malguzars was of rare occurrence, the few cases of unsympathetic treatment being probably due to the fact that landlords have

been compelled to adopt an attitude of self-defence against the advance of a tenantry no longer completely ignorant of its rights or backward in insisting on them. In the tracts most affected by scarcity the landlords, on the whole, acted up to their responsibilities and in the matter of rent collection refrained from excessive insistence, while remaining reasonably punctual in the payment of revenue to Government. The question of further checking the alienation of land by the agricultural classes recently formed the subject of consideration, but no further measures have been proposed beyond restriction of alienation by aboriginal tribes in tracts where their numbers are of importance and where there is a marked tendency for them to lose ground as proprietors of villages. The question of undertaking legislation to deal with this state of affairs is under consideration.

46. In Berar there was little change in the relations between the various Berar. classes of the agricultural population. A new Tenancy Bill was drafted and submitted, and it is hoped that the introduction of such a law will put an end to the quarrels between Izardars and their tenants.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative Council.

I.—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

47. The territories for the time being administered by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces were by Proclamation declared to be a Province with effect from the 10th November 1913, and the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 to 1909, were made applicable thereto. The preliminary steps necessary for giving effect to this Proclamation took a considerable time, principally because of the peculiar position of Berar and the difficulties which attended the representation of its people. The Central Provinces Legislative Council was, however, established during the year under report, and the first meeting was held on the 17th August 1914. Regulations for the nomination and election of members were issued by the Governor-General in Council on the 15th November 1913. Under these rules the ordinary constitution of the Legislative Council is as follows :—

I.—A.—Elected members :—

- (i) By the Municipal Committees, Central Provinces ... 3 members ;
- (ii) By the District Councils, Central Provinces ... 2 members ;
- (iii) By the Landholders, Central Provinces ... 2 members.

B.—Members nominated by the Chief Commissioner with the sanction of the Governor-General, who must not exceed 17 in number, and of whom—

- (a) not more than 10 may be officials, and
- (b) three must be non-official persons resident in Berar. These three members are, before nomination, elected by the Municipal Committees, District Boards and Landholders of Berar respectively.

II.—In addition to the 24 members above specified, the Chief Commissioner may, with the sanction of the Governor-General, nominate one more person, whether an official or a non-official, who possesses expert knowledge of subjects connected with proposed or pending legislation ; provided that he cannot nominate so many officials as to create an official majority on the Council.

48. The term of office of a member is three years, but official members and expert members may hold office for three years or for such shorter period as the Chief Commissioner may determine at the time of nomination. The Regulations further contain provisions regarding the qualifications of candidates and electors, and rules for the conduct of elections. The Vice-President of the Council is nominated by the President under Section 4 of the Indian Councils Act of 1909. This office is held at present by the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S. The rules governing the conduct of legislative business, the discussion of the annual financial statement, the discussion of matters of general interest and the asking of questions in Council are similar to those in force in other Councils.

The following were the members of the Legislative Council at its constitution :—

A.—NOMINATED MEMBERS.

(1) OFFICIALS.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Office.</i>
The Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Crump, C.S.I., I.C.S.	... Financial Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. B. P. Standen, C.I.E., I.C.S.	... Commissioner, Berar.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. Mayne, I.C.S.	... Commissioner of Excise.
The Hon'ble Sir Arthur Blennerhassett, Bart, I.C.S.	... Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. T. Marten, I.C.S.	... Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Leftwich, I.C.S.	... Third Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. S. Findlay, I.C.S.	... Legal Remembrancer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner in the Legal Department.
The Hon'ble Mr. R. H. Tickell, C.I.E.	... Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.
The Hon'ble Colonel G. W. Dennys, I.M.S.	... Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. Spence	... Officiating Inspector-General of Police.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. I. Mayhew	... Officiating Director of Public Instruction.

(2) NON-OFFICIALS.

The Hon'ble Raja Jawahir Singh of Sarangarh.
The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Seth Sir Kasturchand Daga, K.C.I.E., of Kamptee.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sir Bipin Krishna Bose, Kr., C.I.E., of Nagpur.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Salamullah Khan, C.I.E.

B.—ELECTED MEMBERS.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Elected by</i>
The Hon'ble Mr. Shiva Prasad Shrivastava ...	{ Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. Nagpur and Jubbulpore Divisions.
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Seth Nathmal ...	
The Hon'ble Mr. Moreshwar Rao Dixit ...	
The Hon'ble Rai Sahib Mathura Prasad ...	{ Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions.
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Narayan Rao Kelkar ...	
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bishun Dutt Shukul ...	
The Hon'ble Raja Bahadur Raghoji Rao Bhonsle ...	{ Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. Municipal Committees ...
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Ranganath Narsinha Mudholkar, C.I.E.	
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Keshav Govind Damle.	
The Hon'ble Mr. Moropant Vishvanath Joshi ...	{ Landholders ...
	{ District Boards ... of Berar.

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

49. The Legislative Council of the Central Provinces held its first meeting on the 17th August 1914, when the Central Provinces General Clauses Bill was introduced. This was passed on the 27th August 1914 as Act I of 1914. The Central Provinces Court of Wards Amendment Act, I of 1915, was passed on the 20th March 1915.

The following Bills were introduced during the year :—

- (1) The Central Provinces Excise Bill,
- (2) The Central Provinces Vaccination Amendment Bill,
- (3) The Central Provinces Slaughter of Animals Bill,
- (4) The Central Provinces Land Revenue Bill, and
- (5) The Central Provinces Tenancy Amendment Bill.

The first was passed immediately after the close of the year, on the 10th April 1915. The second and fifth were short and formal Bills, designed to remedy some obvious defects in the existing Acts.

50. The object of the Slaughter of Animals Bill was to provide for efficient control and inspection of certain slaughter-houses where animals are killed on a large scale, and to impose stringent penalties for the various offences and abuses which commonly arise in connection with the trade in hides and other products obtained from slaughtered animals.

51. The object of the Land Revenue Bill was to deal with the questions which have arisen since the enactment of the present Land Revenue Act in the year 1881. During this long period of thirty-four years the Province has developed in every respect, especially in the sphere of Agriculture, and thus new problems

**COURSE OF
LEGISLATION**

are presented, for the solution of which legislation has become imperative. Considerable changes were made in the arrangement of subjects in the Bill, which was designed to give a clearer and more logical exposition of the law under each head of Revenue Administration. Among the more important changes of substance embodied in its provisions were those relating to the appellate authority of Deputy Commissioners, the revision of maps and records and the maintenance of the Record-of-Rights, the assessment of land employed for non agricultural purposes, the provisions concerning protected Thekadars and headmen of villages, the appointment and duties of certain village officers, and the rules regarding house-sites.

Berar.

52. The following Acts and Ordinances were applied to Berar during the year by the Notifications specified against each :—

- (1) The Indian Companies Act, VII of 1913, by Foreign Department Notification No. 459-I. B., dated the 21st April 1914.
- (2) The Local Authorities Loans Act, IX of 1914, by Foreign Department Notification No. 1635-I. B., dated the 27th August 1914.
- (3) The Ingress into India Ordinance, V of 1914, by Foreign and Political Department Notification No. 599-D., dated the 29th January 1915.
- (4) The Commercial Intercourse with Enemies Ordinance, VI of 1914, The Foreigners (Amendment) Ordinance, VII of 1914, The Foreigners (Further Amendment) Ordinance, VIII of 1914, and The Articles of Commerce Ordinance, IX of 1914, by Foreign and Political Department Notification No. 999-D., dated the 22nd February 1915.
- (5) The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, VIII of 1914, by Foreign and Political Department Notification No. 1069-D., dated the 25th February 1915.

POLICE**3—POLICE**

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

**Crime,
General.**

53. The economic conditions of the year were conducive to an increase in crime. Outbreaks of cholera occurred in the hot weather in three or four districts, and, towards the close of the year, there were severe epidemics of plague in Nagpur, Saugor and Hoshangabad. Crops were bad in the north and indifferent in the east of the Provinces. Prices generally ruled high and rose sharply on the outbreak of war. In some parts, too, there was an impression among the more lawless elements of the population that the Government would be too much pre-occupied with the effects of the war to attend to the maintenance of internal law and order. The total number of cases of reported crime rose from the previous year's figure of 32,236 to 38,974. This large increase was mainly under thefts and house-breakings, many of which were of a petty nature, and was due largely to the disturbed economic conditions above described, though in part also to the continued improvement in reporting. Though progress is still slow, the relations between the Police and the public showed steady improvement, particularly in the districts of Berar, the most backward part of the Province in this respect. The relations between the police and the magistracy were, in general, excellent.

**Offences
against the
State, the
person and
property.**

54. The number of offences against the State was 413, against 418 in the previous year. The Criminal Investigation Department dealt successfully with eight cases under this head, all connected with counterfeiting currency notes. Rioting cases showed a small decrease but were still numerous; they were attributable chiefly to unpremeditated quarrels, a fact which accounts for the comparative failure of preventive action to check them. Apart from the above, and with the exception of a few assaults on Government officials, there were no other important cases of a public nature. Murders increased from 225 to 245; they included several murders of young children for the sake of their jewellery and three cases of human sacrifice. Dacoities rose from 49 to 55. In the Damoh district, owing to false rumours about the pre-occupation of Government over the war, an unprecedented run of dacoities commenced in November 1914 and continued for some months after the close of the year under report. Robberies rose from 262 to 391, but this figure includes the usual large proportion of cases struck off as false. There was an unsatisfactory increase of nearly 50 per cent in arson cases, only a small number of which were taken to Court, still fewer resulting in convictions.

The total figure included a large proportion of accidents and false cases, but the attention of the Police Department has been called to the necessity of investigating the origin of cotton fires on the grounds of public policy. The increase of 29 in the number of cases of cattle-poisoning was due, in part, to the conditions of the year.

55. There was a slight increase in the percentage of cases investigated and **Police action.** of successful prosecutions. Considerable inequality between individual districts in this respect was largely due to local circumstances. Discretion in the matter of taking up or refusing investigation was, on the whole, wisely exercised; investigations for purely statistical purposes are becoming rarer, and the higher standard of honesty and consideration displayed in their conduct is well maintained. The difficulties of the police in the detection of crime, in spite of improved methods of investigation, are steadily becoming greater, owing, largely, to the increasing intelligence of the criminal. To ensure continued success special emphasis was laid by the Administration on the necessity for enlisting the co-operation of the public, whose general attitude towards crime is still apathetic and indifferent, and for maintaining their confidence and at the same time increasing the efficiency of the investigating staff by avoidance of frequent transfers of Sub-Inspectors, greater consideration in the treatment of parties and witnesses, greater expedition in the trial of criminal cases and strict limitation of the amount of extra work imposed on the police by the subordinate magistracy.

The conduct, discipline and drill of the students at the Saugor Training School were, on the whole, excellent, and health was uniformly good. The selection of provincial candidates has been transferred to a Central Committee composed almost entirely of Police officers, and proposals were submitted for increasing the number of students. Great success was achieved during the year by the Railway Police in the prosecution of cases involving the public safety, and the proportion of convictions to arrests was high.

The specialised branches of Police Administration made steady progress. The Criminal Investigation Department did good work under difficult conditions. It has now reached the stage when further advance depends on expansion of the staff. Foot-print work progressed well and the services of experts were enlisted in many cases. Increasing use was made of the Finger-print Bureau. Further instruction was given in "First Aid," and though fewer classes were held a larger number of men were trained.

There were two cases during the year in which it was found necessary to prosecute Police officers for ill treatment of parties concerned in investigations—both of which resulted in conviction.

56. There are no rural police in the Central Provinces. Only one force **Rural and Punitive Police.** of punitive police was established during the year, in the village of Masla in the Akola district, where the Marwari community had displayed a degree of contempt for authority which could not be passed unnoticed.

57. The sanctioned strength of Inspectors was raised from 148 to 149 in **Establishment.** order to provide for a third circle charge in the Betul district, where the control and supervision of the Station-house police was inadequate, and the cadre of Sub-Inspectors was increased from 702 to 717 in order to bring the staff up to the full scale required for the reallocation of station-houses in certain districts. A small improvement was also made in the grading of the pay of Inspectors. The number of probationers attached to the Saugor Training School increased from 55 to 61. The scheme for the improvement of the pay of Head-constables was partially introduced during the year, and the sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the grant of local allowances to constables serving in Berar and certain expensive districts of the Central Provinces. This concession was brought into force during the year under report and was extended to the mounted police and the Special Armed Reserves serving in the specified districts. The total annual cost of the force rose from Rs. 34,05,468 to Rs. 34,12,167. The expenditure would normally have been much lower owing to the large number of unfilled vacancies in the lower ranks, but any savings on this account were counterbalanced by the extra expenditure incurred by the recall of officers from leave on the outbreak of war. The number of recruits enlisted fell from 995 to 958.

the decrease being specially marked among local recruits. There was an increase in both resignations and desertions. Though the war was a disturbing factor and exercised an influence adverse to recruiting, the main reason for these unsatisfactory figures is the inadequate pay of the rank and file, and a scheme for a radical revision of the pay and prospects of the lower ranks was considered during the year. The number of deaths in the force rose from 117 to 122 and there was a considerable increase in the percentage of admissions to hospital.

Miscellaneous.

58. The number of officers punished was 126 as against 136 in 1913. Of these five were dismissed and 121 were otherwise departmentally punished, the decrease from the previous year's figure being under dismissals. There was an increase of 80 in the number of men punished, but fining showed a satisfactory decrease. The number of rewards, other than by promotion, fell from 4,319 to 3,193, though the amount of cash rewards paid departmentally, Rs. 10,135, was practically the same as in the previous year. Progress with the Police building programme was not quite so rapid as in the previous year, but the allotment sanctioned totalled over four and a quarter lakhs of rupees.

CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Crime.

59. The total number of offences before the Courts fell from 44,332 to 43,896, or by 1 per cent, a decrease which, small as it is, is the first to be recorded since 1910, while cases found to be true showed a decrease of 1·8 per cent. In the Nagpur district there was a remarkable fall of 21·6 per cent in the number of cases reported, while in Nimar the decline was equally pronounced. This is probably attributable, largely, to the effects of the war on trade and credit; the decrease was chiefly in complaint cases and it appears that high prices made the public reluctant to spend money on petty criminal litigation. The number of cases dismissed under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code rose from 8,779 to 9,017. Offences under the Indian Penal Code numbered 32,229 as against 32,940 in the previous year. No offences against the State, under Chapters VI or VII, occurred, while offences affecting life decreased from 497 to 478. There was a fall of over 20 per cent in the number of offences against the public tranquillity, the reduction, which was mainly in the Berar districts, being attributed to the free application of Section 145, Criminal Procedure Code, and to the deterrent effect of several important convictions in 1913. Offences under Special and Local Laws rose from 11,392 to 11,667, or by 2·4 per cent. The most marked increase was in offences under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, for which the Raipur district, with its large irrigation works, was mainly responsible. A 50 per cent. rise in the number of Railway offences indicates the continued vigilance of Railway officials, while the establishment of a branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Jubbulpore accounts for the increased number of cases under Act XI of 1890. Proceedings under Section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, fell from 364 to 350, while those under Sections 109 and 110 rose from 407 to 488, the increase in Chanda being attributed to the insufficient use of these sections in the past. There was an increase also in cases under Section 145 of the Code. Action was taken against one person under Section 108 of the Code for disseminating seditious matter in Jubbulpore. No offence under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code was reported, nor were the Courts asked to have recourse to the provisions of the Indian Press Act, 1870, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1911, or the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908.

Courts of
Original
Jurisdiction.

60. The strength of the Magistracy rose from 555 to 581. The number of persons tried by District Magistrates fell from 343 to 235 and of those brought before Courts of Sessions from 624 to 462. The figures of the year are somewhat below those of 1912, the marked rise in important crimes during 1913 being of a temporary nature. The number of persons accused before Honorary and Special Magistrates numbered 18,424 and 639 as compared with 18,500 and 261 in the previous year. The rise in the number of cases before Special Magistrates is explained by the more frequent use of the Workman's Breach of Contract Act. The percentage of cases disposed of by the various classes of Magistrates was—

District Magistrates 5, other Stipendiary Magistrates 70.0, Honorary Magistrates 28.0 and Special Magistrates 1.5, as compared with 6, 70.5, 28.1 and .8 in the previous year. The number of cases tried summarily rose from 3,926 to 3,993 and the percentage on the total number of cases disposed from 12.4 to 12.6. The variations in several districts depended partly on the posting of Magistrates having summary powers and partly on the number of offences under the Municipal and Police Acts. The percentage of persons convicted to the total number of persons whose cases were disposed of increased from 39.2 to 41.5, showing a marked improvement in several districts. 840 persons were released on probation of good conduct under Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, as against 653 in 1913.

61. The number of cases disposed of during the year decreased from 31,906 to 31,877 and the average duration in all Courts from 18.9 days to 18.3. In the Central Provinces the average duration of Police cases rose from 19.7 to 20.3, and there was a slight further rise in Berar. There was a satisfactory reduction from 17.9 to 17.1 in the average duration of complaint cases throughout the Province. **The despatch of business.**

62. The number of cases disposed of by Sessions Courts was 232 against 258 in 1913, the decrease which is confined to the Nagpur, Jubbulpore, East Berar and West Berar Divisions being most marked in the last two areas. The percentage of convictions was 67.3 against 58.4, and the average duration 56.7 compared with 53.6 in the previous year. **Sessions Courts.**

63. The number of convicted persons whose appeals were disposed of by the Court of the Judicial Commissioner rose from 388 to 412. In 86.6 per cent the finding, and in 71.3 per cent both the finding and sentence, of the lower Court were confirmed. The number of persons whose cases were dealt with in revision was 597 against 736 in the previous year. Benches of two Judges disposed of 58 references for confirmation of death sentences as against 55 in the previous year. In two cases the Judges disagreed, in one of which they were in accord as to the guilt of five out of six accused, while in the other they were unable to agree in respect of any of the three persons involved. In each case the third Judge gave his opinion in favour of acquittal. The number of persons whose appeals were before Sessions Courts fell from 2,215 to 2,015, and those before Magistrates decreased inappreciably from 3,524 to 3,522. The average duration in Sessions Courts fell from 22.5 to 20.4, while in Magistrates' Courts it fell from 19.6 to 18 in the Central Provinces, but increased from 19.3 to 21.1 in Berar. The percentage of appellants whose sentences were unchanged was 72.3 in the Courts of Session and 58.4 in the District Courts, against 72.3 and 61.3, respectively, in the previous year. The appeals of 1,940 persons were dismissed summarily as against 2,027 in the previous year. The Judicial Commissioner's Court had to deal with eight cases, involving nine persons, in which the Local Government had appealed against acquittals. Three had been left pending at the close of 1913; in one of these the two accused died so that the appeal abated, and in the other two the acquittals were set aside. Of the remaining five appeals, three were allowed, one dismissed and in one an order for retrial was passed. **Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.**

64. The percentages of persons sentenced to imprisonment, with or without other punishment, to fine only and to whipping only were 22.9, 73.7 and 3.4 as compared with 23.6, 73.2 and 3.2 in 1913. The percentage of whippings to sentences in cases in which whipping might have been inflicted rose from 23.3 to 23.6. The number of persons sentenced to death fell from 38 to 28, while the number sentenced to transportation rose from 107 to 121. The number of sentences of imprisonment of 15 days and under rose from 101 to 111. Sentences on previous y convicted offenders showed a further increase from 721 to 733. The number of persons sentenced to fine rose from 15,399 to 15,471, but the total of fines imposed fell from Rs. 2,51,044 to Rs. 2,39,084, the percentage of realizations improving from 90.3 to 91.7. The amount struck off as unrealizable increased to Rs. 14,560 from Rs. 6,797, the most marked rises occurring in Akola and Jubbulpore. The balance outstanding at the end of the year fell from Rs. 23,298 to Rs. 17,259, the decrease being mainly in the Nagpur district. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory School remained at the previous year's figure of fourteen. **Punishments.**

PRISONS.

5—PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

General.

65. There was a slight change in the classification of Jails owing to the reduction of the Damoh and Wardha District Jails to the status of Subsidiary Jails. There are thus now three Central Jails as before, sixteen District Jails and three Subsidiary Jails. The Narsinghpur District Jail for adolescents is being worked on modified Borstal lines, the primary object being to give the adolescents a good training in agriculture, though several other trades and handicrafts are carried on.

Jail population.

66. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail, including transfers from other Jails both inside and outside the Provinces, rose from 12,136 in 1913 to 12,347 and the daily average strength of Jail population from 3,584.86 to 3,846.53. One reason for the rise was the abnormal increase of crime in the Damoh district. The number of previously convicted prisoners re-admitted to Jail remained practically unchanged, the proportion of such admissions to the total being 16.16, as compared with 15.57 in the previous year. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society at Raipur continued to do excellent work, and another such Society has been founded in the Betul district. Experiments in the employment of ex-convicts have shown that the reclamation of the habitual criminal is only possible by some well-organized body which can give the necessary home and restraint to such offenders. The increase from twelve in 1913 to twenty in the number of juveniles imprisoned was disappointing after the continuous fall of recent years.

Jail discipline.

67. There were ten escapes during the year as compared with five in 1913. Two of these were from inside Jail and eight from outside gangs. Negligence in supervision by Warders was the principal cause, but much improvement could be effected by Jailors treating their visits to outside gangs in a less routine and mechanical way. Only two of the fugitives remained uncaptured at the end of the year, and three further attempts to escape were frustrated. The frequent changes in the superior staff, owing to the war, together with the increase in population, led to a rise of thirteen per cent in the number of Jail offences, the three Central Jails contributing the greater part of this large increase. There were a few assaults of a serious nature in the two Central Jails of Nagpur and Jubbulpore, but fortunately no injury resulted. The number of cases in which it was found necessary to have recourse to the Criminal Courts for the punishment of Jail offenders increased from sixteen to twenty-two and the number of corporal punishments from twenty-seven to thirty-five. The majority of these punishments were for assaults on paid officials and for repeated refusals to work.

Health.

68. The health of prisoners was exceptionally good, the daily average number of sick being forty-five, while the ratio of deaths *per mille* fell to 12.48, which is the lowest figure yet recorded. The Raipur Central Jail, which at one time had an unenviable reputation for dysentery, showed a further satisfactory fall from sixty admissions and one death in 1913 to thirty-seven admissions and no deaths. The prophylactic use of quinine was continued, but admissions for malarial fevers showed a slight increase.

Jail Industries.

69. The number of industries carried on in Jails remained the same. In the Nagpur Central Jail the Printing Press and the Quinine Factory continued to do well, while there was a still further development in paper-making, the value of the paper sent out to offices as envelopes representing a saving of Rs. 7,355 as against Rs. 4,344 in 1913. The Jubbulpore Central Jail, in spite of an increased demand due to the war, not only fulfilled its contract with the Supply and Transport Department for the supply of textile goods, but supplied other Divisions which had not given it their contract. The amount of Rs. 1,96,049 credited into the Treasury, the largest that has ever been credited by this Jail, serves to show the work done. There was a fall of Rs. 7,428 in the total cash profit, a decrease shared by a little more than half the number of Jails. The Jubbulpore Jail, however, added Rs. 6,866 to its profits by its sale of manufactured articles to the Army Department. The decrease in other Jails was partly due to the free supply of aloe fibre by them to the Jubbulpore, Nagpur and Akola Jails. The daily average number of convicts available for work was approximately

3,250 as against 3,006 in 1913. Only 1,558 convicts were available for Jail factories, the percentage to the total population sentenced to labour being 45.34 as compared with 45.82 in the previous year. Garden produce to the value of Rs. 12,378 was obtained by the employment of a daily average number of 316 prisoners in Jail gardens. 455 convicts were employed in preparing articles for the use and consumption of the prisoners, and the estimated value of labour employed on Jail buildings was Rs. 3,457.

70. The total expenditure incurred in guarding and maintaining prisoners during the year was Rs. 4,11,358 against Rs. 3,93,631 in 1913 and Rs. 3,31,197 in 1912. Though there was thus an increase of Rs. 17,727 as compared with the previous year, the average cost per head of the prison population fell from Rs. 109-12-10 to Rs. 106-15-1 on account of a rise in the Jail population. There was a decrease in the expenditure under the head "Establishment" owing to the reduction of the Damoh and Wardha District Jails to the status of Subsidiary Jails. There was a still further increase of Rs. 13,268 in the expenditure under the head "Dietary Charges" due, partly to the increase in the number of prisoners, partly to the high prices of food-grains prevailing during 1914. From the same causes the net cost to Government increased by Rs. 25,155 and the average cost per head of the prison population from Rs. 89-15-0 to Rs. 90-6-0. The average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 16-8-8 against Rs. 14-9-2 in 1913. The savings effected to Government by the employment of prison labour amounted to Rs. 1,14,237 as compared with Rs. 87,787 in the previous year.

Cost of Jail
Administration

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

CIVIL
JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

71. The fourth Judge in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, who was originally appointed temporarily, continued to work throughout the year. In pursuance of the policy of absorbing the smaller districts in their more important neighbours, the civil district of Betul was amalgamated with that of Hoshangabad and this caused a decrease of one in the number of District Judges and a corresponding increase among Additional District Judges. Two members of the Commission were employed as District Judges and a temporary Subordinate Judgeship was created, which post was abolished towards the end of the year. Two Courts of Additional Subordinate Judges were opened at Nagpur and Raipur, respectively. At the beginning of the year two Munsiffs became available for employment elsewhere, owing to the abolition of the Courts at Yeotmal and Bhandara, and a third was set free by the posting of a Subordinate Judge at Harda in 1913. Additional Munsiffs were consequently posted to Khandwa, Basim and Malkapur to clear the congested files at those places. In January a new court at Pusad was opened to which one of the two Munsiffs at Darwha was transferred, but subsequently the work at Darwha was found too much for one man and an Additional Munsiff was again posted there. Till the end of June the number of Munsiffs employed was one in excess of the sanctioned scale. A new court was opened at Chandur and a Munsiff moved to that place from Amraoti. The total number of suits instituted fell from 100,200 to 97,622. The fall, which appears to be due to the low price of cotton consequent on the war and the financial crisis at the end of 1913, is distributed evenly under all heads except that of suits for arrears of rent, which showed a rise from 7,457 to 7,768. The total value of suits instituted fell from Rs. 2,46,31,804 to Rs. 1,97,73,457. This decrease is discounted to a certain extent by the institution of a single suit valued at 40 lakhs during the previous year, and there is a substantial rise from Rs. 1,81,74,062, the figure reached in 1912. The average value of suits in Berar remained stationary at Rs. 314, but in the Central Provinces, for the reason mentioned above, it decreased from Rs. 223 to Rs. 166, which figure, however, marks an increase over that for 1912. Increased facilities for petty litigation and two financial crises, at the end of 1913 and 1914, respectively, have undoubtedly prevented a further rise in these figures.

Tribunals and
character of
litigation.

Small Cause Court powers were conferred during the year on four Munsiffs and the powers already exercised by two District Judges were enhanced. Suits tried by this procedure have risen in value from Rs. 38,79,544 to Rs. 40,27,136 and in number

from 49,506 to 50,367, so that more than two-thirds of the suits for money and movable property are now tried by this procedure. It is generally agreed, that these courts, where they are presided over by Judges of some standing, are popular. The percentage of suits disposed of by Munsiffs fell from 45·1 to 43·7 and that of suits decided by Small Cause Court procedure showed a corresponding rise from 47·3 to 50·0. There was a slight increase in the percentages of suits decided by Subordinate and District Judges, respectively, which was due to the extension of Small Cause Court powers and a tendency to raise the pecuniary jurisdiction of the lower courts as the presiding officers became more efficient.

Pending files.

72. The reduction in the pending file, though assisted by the decrease in institutions, was satisfactory, but further improvement in the number of suits pending over six months was reported to be necessary. The Central Provinces and Berar closed the year with 15,285 and 7,451 cases pending. The average duration of both contested and uncontested cases showed a considerable decrease, the improvement in Hoshangabad and Bhandara being specially marked. The Berar figures still exceed those of any district in the Central Provinces. The proportion of contested suits again rose slightly both in the Central Provinces and in Berar.

Execution of decrees.

73. There was an appreciable decline in the number of applications for execution from 128,515 in 1913 to 122,471, both Berar and the Central Provinces contributing to this result. Disposals however showed a falling off and the pending file rose by 1,234 to 22,570, practically the whole of the rise occurring in the Central Provinces, where, moreover, the number of cases pending over 6 months increased by fifty to 711. The amount realised showed a corresponding fall from Rs. 25,21,744 to Rs. 23,55,573. The number of applications found to be wholly infructuous fell from 54,224 to 51,886, but the percentage of such applications to the number disposed of rose from 50·6 to 51·9.

Appellate litigation.

74. There was again a considerable increase in the institutions of appeals in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner; 1,524 appeals, regular and miscellaneous, were preferred as against 1,321 in 1913 and 1,253 in 1912. Disposals of first and second appeals declined from 1,182 to 1,064, the pending file rising from 1,048 to 1,403. Applications for revision decreased from 479 to 455 and disposals from 467 to 400. This decline in disposals demonstrates clearly the necessity for the fourth Judge and indicates that, unless litigation permanently decreases, a fifth Judge may be required in the near future. The total number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, instituted and disposed of before Divisional Judges during the year was as follows :—

Instituted	...	...	537
Decided	...	...	646
Pending	...	...	161

as compared with 556, 472 and 269 in the previous year. As remarked in last year's report the pending file at Nagpur had attained unwieldy proportions at the end of 1913. The transfer of the Bhandara District to the Chhattisgarh Division at the beginning of the year under report afforded some relief. The average duration of regular appeals for the whole Province increased from 142·1 to 156·0 days. Institutions in District Judges' Courts, inclusive of the Courts of Subordinate Judges gazetted with the powers of a District Judge, fell from 3,967 to 3,782 and disposals from 4,171 to 3,800, so that the pending file was lowered by nineteen to 670. The files were everywhere in a satisfactory condition.

Institutions in Berar fell from 1,784 to 1,703 and the pending file improved from 940 at the end of 1913 to 805. There was little change in the average duration of regular appeals, a fall in East Berar being counterbalanced by a rise in West Berar.

Miscellaneous.

75. The three posts of District Judge in the Central Provinces reserved for members of the Indian Civil Service were held by members of that service at the beginning of the year. Two junior civilians were posted later on to the Department for training but they returned to the Executive on receipt of the Government of India's orders requiring civilians to have five years' experience as executive officers before being trained in judicial work. Two other civilians were then posted to the Department for training as Additional Subordinate Judges and they continued working as such for the remainder of the year.

Two members of the Provincial Service were invalided and two died. Among Munsiffs one died, one was invalided and a third retired after completing thirty years' service. The abolition of the Betul civil district enabled a Naib-Nazir to be substituted for the Nazir at that place, and the constitution of a separate Nazarat at Narsinghpur on the 1st October 1913 resulted in increased efficiency in that Department. The improvement in the work of the process-serving staff was maintained; the staff in some districts seems to be in excess of actual requirements and the possibility of reduction is being considered by the Judicial Commissioner. Cases of criminal misappropriation were still fairly common. The work of the copying department continues to grow in efficiency, though the present scale of pay fails to attract qualified men. The system of applying for copies by post is gaining ground. Security was taken from all head copyists and no cases of embezzlement were reported. The building programme of the department made good progress owing to the liberality of the building grants, and work was begun on the court-house at Narsinghpur and on the Munsiffis at Ramtek, Gondia, Arvi, Murwara, Burhanpur and Sausar. The Munsiffis at Hatta, Umrer and Gadawara were completed, and a portion of the reconstituted Civil Court at Wardha had already been occupied by the close of the year.

7—REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION

[Report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

76. With exceptionally good seasonal prospects there was every reason to expect continued and substantial progress in the total number of registrations effected in the year under report. This anticipation was realised in the first eight months of the year, the number of documents registered rising from 75,233 in the corresponding period of last year to 79,246, or by five per cent. But the statistics of the last four months were adversely affected by the war and the progress made in the first eight months was more than lost in the closing period. The decrease was however confined to the richer and more industrially advanced localities and the cotton producing areas, which felt the effects of the war most. The figures for the complete year for the whole province show only a slight fall in the total number of registrations from 92,650 in 1913 to 92,601 in 1914. Taking the two areas separately, the Central Provinces show an increase of six per cent, while Berar shows a decrease of four per cent. The increase in the Central Provinces was confined to compulsory registrations relating to immoveable property, while the decrease in Berar was common to all classes of documents except "Wills" and "Authorities to adopt". The aggregate value of the property affected in the whole province rose from 513 lakhs to 566 lakhs of rupees. The increase is satisfactory as it shows that in spite of the war the value of land has continued to rise. Although compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property rose by eight per cent in the Central Provinces they fell by three per cent in Berar and thus for the whole province they remained practically stationary. Gifts also show very little variation either in the Central Provinces or Berar. Optional registrations relating to immoveable property declined by five per cent for the combined area, but the aggregate value rose by ten per cent. Registrations affecting moveable property also declined from 6,312 to 5,850 for the combined area. The number of orders filed under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act increased from 434 to 1,044 and from 496 to 618, respectively. Sale-deeds of land held in proprietary rights increased from 1,153 to 1,162. Sales of villages and shares rose from 1,369 to 1,443. It is satisfactory that seventy-one per cent of the sales were in favour of agriculturists. Mortgages of proprietary rights increased from 1,337 to 1,614. The number of villages and shares mortgaged rose from 1,801 to 2,339, or by thirty per cent. The bulk of these mortgages were in favour of non-agriculturists. Sale-deeds of malik-makbuza plots and absolute-occupancy holdings rose from 3,334 to 3,474, and, of the area transferred, sixty-six per cent went to agriculturists. The total income of the Department rose from Rs. 3,95,893 to Rs. 4,03,067. Expenditure also rose in the same proportion, the figure being Rs. 1,32,152 against Rs. 1,29,678. The percentage of expenditure to receipts was thirty-three, the same as last year. The system of taking thumb impressions worked satisfactorily. The touring and inspection work of the officers of the Department was satisfactory.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

77. There was no change during the year in the number of Municipalities and the only change in constitution was in Wardha, where a new Committee came into existence at the beginning of the year. All Municipal Committees, except those of Pachmarhi, Mandla and Seoni-Malwa, held the prescribed number of meetings. Attendance at the meetings was generally satisfactory. Most of the Municipalities in the Nagpur Division reverted during the year to the old system of triennial elections, which has, since the close of the year, been made general.

Income.

78. The total income of all Municipalities, excluding extraordinary receipts and debt, was Rs. 33,09,175, as compared with Rs. 31,62,928, in the preceding year, but if Government contributions be excluded, the real income from Municipal sources was Rs. 26,55,151 against Rs. 28,76,361. The fall was mainly due to the effects of the war and was chiefly under the head "Octroi," the receipts under which were nearly a lakh and quarter less than the previous year's figure. The income from taxes other than octroi fell by about Rs. 20,000 which was mainly accounted for by the decrease in the two Municipalities of Khurai and Damoh under "Cattle Registration Fees," the trade in jerked meat and hides being seriously affected by the war and by an outbreak of plague. Realisations under special Acts, amounting to Rs. 1,33,000, showed an increase of seven per cent on the previous year's figure, while revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation, amounting to Rs. 5,37,000, showed a fall of Rs. 24,000. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 6,54,024 and made up about twenty per cent of the total Municipal income. Over 4 lakhs of rupees out of this amount represented grants to Municipalities for sanitary works and included grants of Rs. 1,62,000 to the Nagpur, Harda and Chanda Municipalities for drainage schemes and Rs. 2,19,000 to the Akola, Damoh, Buldana, Arvi, Bilaspur, Amraoti Camp and Seoni Municipalities for water-supply projects. Grants for educational purposes amounted to Rs. 1,89,347 against Rs. 64,405 in the preceding year and included Rs. 1,14,600 specially granted for expenditure on primary school buildings. The incidence of taxation per head of population fell in the Central Provinces at Rs. 2-0-3, as compared with Rs. 2-2-7 in the preceding year, the decline being mainly due to the fall in octroi receipts, while in Berar, where there is no octroi, there was a trifling increase in incidence from Rs. 1-8-7 to Rs. 1-9-2.

Expenditure.

79. The opening balance of all Municipalities at the beginning of the year was Rs. 13,74,227. Receipts amounted to Rs. 38,89,723 and disbursements to Rs. 40,90,966, leaving a closing balance at the end of the year of Rs. 11,72,984. The large balances in some Municipalities were accumulated for expenditure on specific objects. Excluding debt and extraordinary expenditure, the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 36,59,336 against Rs. 31,38,807 in the preceding year. The capital outlay on water-supply was Rs. 3,92,156 against Rs. 92,665 in 1913-14, the increase being due to new projects undertaken in the Arvi, Akola, Buldana and Damoh Municipalities. The capital expenditure on drainage amounted to Rs. 3,19,400 against Rs. 3,77,933. A sum of over two lakhs of rupees was spent on the Nagpur drainage scheme which was still in progress and over one lakh on the new drainage scheme at Harda. The expenditure on conservancy and sanitation amounted to Rs. 6,10,022, showing an increase of nearly Rs. 21,000, which was shared by almost all Municipalities. Steady progress was made in the direction of the relief of congestion and its attendant insanitary conditions. Town improvement schemes were undertaken in Chhindwara, Pandurna and Sausar, and an important scheme was approved in Bilaspur. The Jubbulpore Municipality have called in the services of an expert in town planning to advise them in a scheme now under contemplation, and the Municipalities of Raipur, Amraoti Town and Burhanpur also had schemes under consideration during the year. Eleven minor municipalities were provided with whole-time Sanitary Inspectors, half of whose pay is defrayed by Government in the shape of a recurring grant, while several other Municipalities appointed Sanitary Inspectors out of their own funds, or trained or arranged for the training of their Secretaries in Sanitation. The expenditure on Education rose from Rs. 3,37,398

to Rs. 4,27,672, but the increase was entirely due to outlay from Government contributions for the improvement of primary school buildings. Good progress was made in raising the pay of primary school teachers.

80. At the close of the year seventeen Municipalities and one notified area were indebted to Government on account of loans granted to them. The amount advanced during the year was Rs. 2,67,000. One lakh of rupees was paid to the Nagpur Municipality as the fifth instalment of the loan of eight lakhs for its drainage scheme, a sum of Rs. 75,000 was advanced to the Arvi Municipality and Rs. 50,000 to the Harda Municipality as the first instalments of loans for water-supply and drainage schemes, respectively, and the rest was granted for water-supply schemes at Damoh and Buldana, the construction of a fruit market at Nagpur and a small town improvement scheme at Chhindwara. The total balance outstanding at the close of the year on account of loans was Rs. 24,13,422 against Rs. 22,62,520 in the previous year. The finances of all Municipalities which have taken loans from Government were in a satisfactory condition. **Loans.**

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

81. The only change in constitution was in Chhindwara, where a Local Board was created for the Amarwara tahsil. This involved a curtailment of the area of the Chhindwara Local Board and the number of its elected members was reduced by six, while the number of elected members on the District Council was increased by two and the number of nominated members decreased by one. An advisory Sub-Committee to the District Fund Committee of Mandla was also created for the newly formed Niwas tahsil and the number of members of the Dindori Sub-Committee was increased by two. Four Local Boards and four Zamindari Boards failed to hold the prescribed number of meetings, and 93 out of a total of 830 meetings held proved abortive for want of a quorum. Fifteen of the District Councils and fifty-one of the Local Boards had an average non-official attendance of under 50 per cent and the provincial average fell from 46 to 44. **Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.**

82. Income and expenditure, excluding account heads, showed an increase of Rs. 3,74,000 and Rs. 5,38,000, respectively, over the figures of the preceding year. Government contributions for Education and Civil works exceeded those of the preceding year by Rs. 4,35,000. The other noticeable variations in income were an increase of Rs. 32,000 under Local Rates and a decrease of Rs. 24,000 in Cattle-pound Receipts. Of the contributions made by Government, a sum of about three and a half lakhs of rupees was assigned for the maintenance of roads and buildings transferred from the Public Works Department to District Councils under the Divisional Local Fund Engineer Scheme, Rs. 56,000 was granted for the purchase of steam rollers and for the provision of cause-ways over rivers, Rs. 60,000 for the improvement of water-supply in rural areas, Rs. 1,08,000 for the opening and Rs. 63,000 for the maintenance of new primary schools, and Rs. 1,27,500 for the improvement of school accommodation. Grants were also made for the raising of the minimum pay of certificated teachers in vernacular schools to Rs. 11 per mensem and for their pensionary contributions. Closing balances increased in all but eight districts. The largest balances were still to be found in the Berar districts, where, however, definite programmes have been prepared, which, as soon as the contemplated appointment of a second Local Fund Engineer is complete, should enable the funds of the Boards to be quickly and usefully employed. The demands of education, as before, absorbed a large proportion of District Council funds, the percentage of total income expended on public instruction falling at 29 in the Central Provinces and 33 in Berar. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 7,48,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 3,71,000 in Berar, Government contributions amounting to Rs. 6,31,000 and Rs. 1,69,000, respectively. Particular attention was again paid to primary education and there was an increase of 143 in the number of primary schools. The number of dispensaries subsidised by District Funds increased from 151 to 160, and the expenditure incurred was over one and a quarter lakhs of rupees, an increase of 21 per cent. over the **Income and Expenditure.**

**DISTRICT
COUNCILS AND
LOCAL
BOARDS**

previous year's figure; two new dispensaries were opened in the Chhindwara district and one each in Narsinghpur, Raipur and Bilaspur. Rs. 78,801 was spent on vaccination, the increase over the preceding year's figure being mainly due to the introduction of a scheme for improving the pay and prospects of the staff, and Rs. 24,542 was spent on sanitation and conservancy. The usual annual grant of Rs. 60,000 was made by Government for the improvement, on a definite programme, of water-supply in villages specially liable to cholera, and most districts spent more than the amount of the grant on this work. The total expenditure on Civil Works amounted to Rs. 17,23,113 against Rs. 13,86,623 in the preceding year. The increase was due to expenditure, from the Government contributions, on the maintenance of roads and building transferred from the Public Works Department to District Councils. The expenditure on communications was about 38 per cent of the total expenditure on civil works, showing a satisfactory increase of 7 per cent over the previous year's figure. The Divisional Local Fund Engineer scheme made good progress, and, though a final opinion cannot yet be pronounced, there is general confidence in its ultimate success. The amount spent on arboriculture was Rs. 31,062; definite programmes were drawn up in all districts and, in general, good progress was made. The number of cattle pounds increased from 1,333 to 1,397; the income fell by 4 per cent while the expenditure rose by 6 per cent. All charges on account of veterinary dispensaries, except the pay of Veterinary Assistants, continued to be met from District Funds. There was a general rise in the number of cases treated, indicating the increasing popularity of veterinary work.

**MILITARY
(VOLUNTEER-
ING)**

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

**The Nagpur
Volunteer
Rifles.**

83. The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles were the only two Volunteer Corps in the Central Provinces. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles continued to rise and in 1914-15 numbered 1,372, including thirty-two Commissioned Officers, as compared with 1,326, including thirty Commissioned Officers, in 1913-14. Of this number, 1,190 were classed as extra-efficient, 172 as efficient and ten as non-efficient, while marksmen numbered 324 as compared with 294 in the preceding year. There were ninety-four Reservists, all of whom were efficient. The annual Camp-of-Exercise was held at Nagpur from the 24th to the 30th January 1915 and attracted a record attendance, the numbers actually living in Camp being 716 of all ranks as compared with 619 in the previous year. Among other operations the Battalion engaged in field practice with the Territorial force stationed at Kamptee in the vicinity of that station. The Corps was inspected during the Camp-of-Exercise by the General Officer Commanding, 5th (Mhow) Division, who was favourably impressed with the efficiency and smart appearance of all ranks. A Maxim Gun Section from the Corps, consisting of one Officer and eleven Volunteers, proceeded on active service with the Indian Expeditionary Force "C," while several officers and members of the Mounted Companies joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers on active service. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

**The Bengal-
Nagpur
Railway
Volunteer
Rifles.**

84. The total enrolled strength of the 2nd Battalion of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps, which has its headquarters at Nagpur, was 630 on the 31st March 1915 as compared with 573 in the preceding year. Of this number 326, including thirteen officers, were employed in the Central Provinces, and of these 272 were classed as extra-efficient, fifty as efficient and four as non-efficient; while marksmen numbered ninety-five. During the year field days were held whenever practicable. During the Camp-of-Exercise at Jharsugada the Battalion was exercised with the 1st Battalion, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps, and much useful and practical work was carried out. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1—AGRICULTURE

AGRICUL-
TURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1915.]

85. During the last few years the scope of the Agriculture Department's work has been limited to some extent by the inadequate strength of the superior staff. The addition, in 1913-14, of two Assistant Directors helped towards meeting the difficulty, and the formerly overburdened charge of the Southern Circle was further relieved by a re-distribution of the districts. The cotton country, consisting of Berar and the neighbouring districts of the Central Provinces, was formed into the new Western Circle under a third Deputy Director, while a small Circle was created round Nagpur and placed under the charge of the Principal of the Agricultural College. There are thus now three main Circles covering the wheat, rice and cotton tracts, respectively, and a small College Demonstration Circle. The sanction of the Secretary of State has been received to the employment of three Deputy Directors with an Assistant attached to each, but there is still immense room for expansion, especially in the direction of cattle-breeding, assistance to the co-operative movement in its development on productive lines and the utilization of the large irrigation projects now in course of construction. The need for financial economy prevented the inauguration of any large projects such as additional farms, but during the year it was possible to open a new farm at Betul and to start another on a small scale in Kawardha. **Agriculture.**

86. At the Agricultural College it had long been felt that a single course of training could scarcely be adapted alike to the practical farmer of ordinary educational attainments and to the more advanced student. To meet this difficulty a new curriculum, based on the system in practice at Coimbatore, was introduced, in which the course is divided into two parts. The first is devoted almost entirely to agriculture and is sufficiently complete in itself for the training of the lower subordinate branch of the Agricultural Service or for private farmers, while the second part consists of a more advanced course of service which will provide a training for the upper subordinate service. This innovation resulted in a gratifying increase of candidates for training. The work of the year suffered considerably from a serious outbreak of plague which necessitated closure of the College for seven weeks, but the results achieved in spite of adverse circumstances were creditable. **Agricultural education.**

The publication and issue of the Agricultural and Co-operative Gazette continued throughout the year, but the number of copies circulated fell from 5,922 to 5,912. Weekly cotton returns were also compiled and circulated for general information.

87. The season was on the whole a favourable one, and some useful results were obtained on the eight Government farms by way both of research and of demonstration. At the Tharsa Farm excellent results were obtained with Raipur ground-nut followed by wheat, and it was also demonstrated that oranges are very much more economical of water than plantains, a result of considerable importance for irrigated tracts where the supply of water is limited. The Akola Farm was devoted almost entirely to the production of Rosea cotton seed, which has proved so complete a success in the Nagpur-Berar country, and only one-twentieth of the area was put under experimental cropping. Apart from cotton, there is much room for experiment in rabi crops, which are of no small importance in Berar, and also in juar which is the staple food in that part of the country. An area of some fifty acres of wheat land was acquired as an adjunct to the **Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.**

Adhartal Farm, where good progress was made in demonstrating the economical use of tank water and the best methods of cropping and cultivation in areas commanded by small irrigation tanks. Interesting experiments were also carried out in rice and sugarcane. On the Powarkhera Farm manurial and rotation experiments with wheat were continued.

The work of demonstrating to agriculturists the increased profits to be derived from the use of improved implements and methods of agriculture, and the use of properly selected seed, was carried on with unremitting energy in the various Divisions. The Raipur Farm again demonstrated the superiority of the transplanting over the broadcasting method of rice cultivation. In Chhattisgarh the area under transplanted rice rose from 30,000 to 40,000 acres, and the fact that this area is distributed over nearly 5,000 villages shows how widespread are the activities of the Department in this respect. With the excellent start that has been made it may be hoped with some confidence that ultimately, at least in the areas commanded by the Mahanadi and Tendula canals now being built, transplantation will be almost universally followed. In the Northern Circle an outstanding feature was the success which attended the small demonstration plots managed by Kamdars trained at the Adhartal Farm. There is a general opinion that these should be increased in numbers and spread uniformly over each district, but this is only possible if they are supplemented, as in Jubbulpore, by private unions of agriculturists who will run demonstration plots with their own ploughmen. The Evans Seed Farm working in connection with the Crosthwaite Central Bank did useful work in supplying nearly a hundred tons of first class selected wheat seed to members of Co-operative Societies at a time when, owing to the failure of crops in the previous year, good seed was extremely scarce. The value of co-operation in agriculture is further illustrated from the Western Circle, where the number of Agricultural Unions increased to thirty and where these unions and the seed farms connected with them distributed 700 tons of Rosea cotton seed.

Cattle-breeding was very successful at Telinkheri and Powarkhera, but less so at Chandkhuri, where there was an unfortunate outbreak of foot and mouth disease. For the improvement of cattle-breeding generally the chief need is for a comprehensive scheme for the institution of farms at the most suitable centres with a view to maintaining strains of the best breeds and producing new types suited to the special needs of each tract. A start was made in this direction with a farm at Borgaon, in the Akola District, for the improvement of the Khamgaon breed, which is the most important class of agricultural cattle in Berar. The success of the Co-operative Society of Gao'is at the Telinkheri Dairy during the past year led to the registration of a second Gao'li Society. The Dairy has been a boon to the residents of Nagpur and has added largely to the amenities of life, and the early forebodings as to its success have been dispelled. The year was marked by the extensive depredations of the "Maho" insect, a small green hopper which attacks the rice plants. Its activities were manifested principally in the Chhattisgarh Division, and the Entomological staff of the Department was almost continuously occupied in the investigation of its somewhat obscure life-history and, with the strenuous assistance of the Executive staff, in organizing campaigns for its destruction.

District
Associations.

88. The formation of Taluq Agricultural Associations in Berar, in place of the more cumbersome District Associations, is likely to lead to increased interest on the part of agriculturists in the work of the Department; experience in the north of the Provinces has already shown that concentration in small areas, with definite local interests, is the best means of securing practical and tangible results.

CO-OPERATIVE
SOCIETIES

Co-operative
Societies.

I (a)—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15.]

89. The conditions with which work on co-operation was attended during the year 1914-15 were of exceptional difficulty. The effects of the banking crisis of the previous year were still felt; a bad agricultural season had just been experienced and in the northern districts was succeeded by a poor one; and over and above these circumstances, sufficient to be discouraging in themselves, the outbreak of war caused a rise in prices and a temporary restriction of credit.

Simultaneously, and independently of these circumstances, the rapidly increasing progress of the movement had reached a stage when, from sheer inability to provide it with adequate supervision, and the consequent risk of injuring its high reputation in these Provinces, further expansion had to be restricted. In spite of these disturbing factors, however, the co-operative movement made steady progress. The outbreak of the war caused a large withdrawal of deposits at a time when money was specially needed to finance the rabi sowings, but every anna was repaid on the due date and the societies were fully financed. Public confidence was soon restored, with the result that the number of societies increased from 2,213 to 2,297, the membership from 40,415 to 44,084 and working capital from 65 to 72½ lakhs of rupees. The need for a larger supervising staff has been partially met by temporary arrangements, and a more elaborate scheme has been recommended to the Government of India.

90. The Provincial Co-operative Bank, under the peculiar conditions of the year, had to devote especial care to the strengthening of the financial position. The working capital was Rs. 13,44,350 as compared with Rs. 12,22,450 in the previous year. Central Banks remitted over Rs. 6½ lakhs in cash to the Provincial Bank, *i. e.*, about a lakh and a half more than in the previous year. The deposits held by the Provincial Bank increased from Rs. 5,35,933 to Rs. 9,86,796; and at the close of the year the debt of Rs. 3,52,585 due to the Allahabad Bank had been cleared off, a sum of Rs. 3,30,000 had been invested in easily realizable securities, and the cash in hand amounted to Rs. 42,811. The Bank declared a dividend of 4 per cent, Rs. 10,000 was added to the reserve fund and Rs. 6,000 carried forward out of profits. The Directors of the Bank were careful to warn their customers, the Central Banks, of the necessity of educating and consolidating the existing societies, and of increasing their own deposits and share capital. The Union of Co-operative Banks, as a co-ordinating and controlling institution, continued to give most valuable assistance to the Registrar and did much to secure unity of aim and effort. The Union Congress, consisting of one elected delegate from each Central Bank, met once during the year, and adopted a provincial policy with regard to reserve funds, deposit banking and credit limits. The Central Banks made steady progress and exercised, on the whole, a wise discretion in adapting their demands for repayment and their treatment of applications for assistance to the difficult agricultural conditions of the year. Their number increased from twenty-eight to twenty-nine owing to the registration of a new bank at Bilaspur. The working capital rose from Rs. 25,86,613 to Rs. 29,37,460, share capital from Rs. 4,97,105 to Rs. 6,03,173 and deposits by members from Rs. 1,89,913 to Rs. 3,84,220. Loans from the Provincial Bank decreased by a little over a lakh. The reserve fund was still very small, but staff has been engaged and trained in anticipation of expansion, and this sound policy has decreased profits.

Working
of Central
Societies,
Provincial and
Central
Banks.

91. There is a real demand for agricultural societies for purposes other than credit. Owing, however, to inadequacy of staff, it has not been possible to comply with the demand, and this has resulted in an increasing and unregulated growth of unregistered societies. Production, sale and distribution represent a very distinct step in advance of simple borrowing, and the risk of failure is proportionately greater. The development of this branch of the movement is of the greatest importance, but must await expansion of the staff. The existing eighteen registered societies of this class continued to do well, especially in seed production and the introduction of improved implements. The operations in the Jubbulpore district were specially successful; as in the previous year, the Sihora Central Bank imported selected wheat on behalf of its societies from the supervised seed farms of the Hoshangabad district, and, in a year of distinct shortage, the two registered Seed Unions, comprising thirteen credit societies, sowed some 70,000 lbs. of pure seed. The eleven registered Cotton Unions in the Western Circle produced 579,504 lbs. of pure Rosea seed and made profits amounting to nearly Rs. 30,000.

Agricultural
Unions for
production
and sale.

92. The number of societies of this class rose from 2,083 to 2,154, the membership from 34,242 to 36,981, and savings deposits by members from Rs. 80,694 to Rs. 1,06,788. The total funds belonging to the societies amounted to Rs. 2,86,340 against Rs. 1,93,223 in the previous year. 2,013 societies are

Agricultural
Societies,
Unlimited.

**CO-OPERATIVE
SOCIETIES**

now shareholders in the Central Banks to which they are affiliated. The agricultural credit societies have, during the past few years, been called upon to encounter very severe trials, but, in the matter of meeting their obligations, they have a wonderfully good record and practically all have been of solid and valuable assistance to their members.

**Non-
agricultural
Societies;
Credit,
Limited.**

93. Of the eight non-agricultural societies, with limited liability, two were under liquidation during the year. The business of winding up their affairs, which has now been going on for some time, drags on slowly; there is, however, no danger of loss as there are surplus assets in hand. The manner in which the affairs of the Betul Officials' Society were carried on was most unsatisfactory, and it was decided to cancel its registration and to make the members bear the cost of compulsory liquidation. The failure and abolition of this and other societies of the kind has shown that such societies require the disciplinary guidance of an officer in authority. The Hatta Urban Society showed signs of becoming a mere money-lending concern, and the need for reorganization was indicated, but its financial position is sound and it has conferred substantial benefit upon its members. The remaining four societies of this class were well managed and are in a prosperous condition.

**Non-
agricultural
Societies;
Credit,
Unlimited.**

94. Societies of this class have increased in number from eighty-one to eighty-five, membership from 1,024 to 1,115 and working capital from Rs. 45,400 to Rs. 52,500. There are fifty-five societies of weavers, five of dyers, two of gold and silversmiths, four of brass and copper workers, seven of basket makers, two of potters, one of leather workers and nine of petty village traders. No class of society has felt so directly the financial effects of the war as the small industrial societies of weavers and dyers. The general contraction in the purchasing power of the people, especially in the cotton tracts which form the market of their wares, hit these classes particularly hard, and it was necessary for Government to undertake extensive operations for the relief of weavers at Nagpur and Burhanpur. The societies, however, contrived to get along without direct financial assistance from Government, and no financial default was made. It is, however, impossible for the Central Banks to finance these societies further and their only hope is an early revival of the market. The other societies of this class did well.

Resources.

95. Although the circumstances of the year 1914-15 were of exceptional difficulty, the Provincial Bank almost doubled its deposits, increased its reserve fund and declared a dividend of 4 per cent. The Central Banks made steady progress and collected the major portion of the amount due for recovery from their constituent societies. In the matter of financial resources the movement continued to be self-supporting. No money was owing either to Government or the Allahabad Bank, and fluid investments, outside Co-operative business, amounted to almost six lakhs of rupees.

**VETERINARY
DEPARTMENT****1 (b)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT**

[Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department, Central Provinces, for the year ending the 31st March 1915.]

**Veterinary
Department.**

96. The year under report was a healthy one for cattle and the mortality from rinderpest, the most widely destructive of the epidemic diseases, was less than a third of that in the previous year. The calls for inoculation work were therefore less numerous than usual, and the number of animals inoculated fell from 94,690 to 47,285. There was, however, no relaxation in the energies of the department; on the contrary, nearly a quarter of a million cases of all kinds, excluding inoculations, were treated. The experiments with anthrax serum were a complete success. Public confidence in the efforts of the Veterinary officers showed steady progress, and the liberal subventions made by the Administration to local bodies for providing better hospital accommodation afforded a testimony to the people that local interests had received full attention. As a significant token of growing enlightenment, it was reported that in some cases villagers had actually excluded from their neighbourhood cattle which had been in an infected area. With the provision of good accommodation at the New Laboratories erected for the Agriculture Department at Nagpur facilities for research and for the examination of specimens were greatly increased.

97. During the year the expenditure incurred by the Veterinary Department fell from Rs. 2,59,630 to Rs. 2,10,555. The decrease did not occur owing to any contraction of activity, but was due to the fact that in the previous year special efforts were made to provide adequate hospital buildings, a grant of Rs. 77,000 being made for the purpose. Notwithstanding the somewhat stringent financial condition of the year under report, budget provision was made for the permanent appointment of a second superintendent for the Provinces, and the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned this appointment. The subordinate staff is now much more efficient than was the case a few years ago: nevertheless men with a better educational grounding are required, and in order to secure them the Administration has since the close of the year given provisional sanction to a higher scale of pay for Veterinary Assistants. A conference of Veterinary Inspectors was held during the year for the first time, and it is hoped that the discussion on various departmental points will benefit the Inspectors and give them a better understanding of the working of the department. In general, the year was one of successful work and continued progress.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1914-15, area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1914-15, and Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

98. The monsoon of 1914 began well except that the rainfall during June **Rainfall** in Yeotmal and Buldana was excessive and some of the cotton seed was washed away, necessitating resowing. During July, August and September the rain was sufficient in quantity and well distributed, and the prospects of the kharif crops were excellent. That these prospects were not fully realised was not due to climatic causes. At first it appeared as if the rabi harvest would also be excellent, but cloudy weather during November, and the almost complete cessation of dew following on short rainfall during October seriously injured the young plants, especially on poor and uneven land. The winter rains were also rather unsatisfactory except in Seoni, Mandla and the Southern districts. Finally, when it could do nothing but harm, there were heavy storms of rain frequently accompanied by hail, just as the harvest was being gathered. The crops on the threshing floors were injured, and rust appeared in the Jubbulpore district and caused considerable damage to the wheat crop. The general average rainfall during the year for the Central Provinces was 47'31 inches as compared with 48'22, which is the average for 47 years. All districts, except Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Betul, Chhindwara, Chanda, Drug, Raipur and the Vindhyan districts, received more than the average rainfall, the excess being most marked in Balaghat and Buldana where it amounted to 30 and 63 per cent, respectively. In Berar the general average was 41'47 inches as against 31'45, the average for twenty-one years.

99. The kharif area of the Central Provinces increased by 714,547 acres **Character of the season.** (6 per cent). The increase was common to all districts except Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat and Drug. The expansion in the Jubbulpore Division amounted to 332,236 acres (17 per cent); in the Nerbudda Division, 268,361 acres (11 per cent); in the Nagpur Division, 88,972 acres (3 per cent); and in the Chhattisgarh Division, 24,978 acres (1 per cent). The area placed under jwar, cotton and til rose considerably owing to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time, while the rice area receded by 64,903 acres (1 per cent). The kharif area of Berar decreased by 88,910 acres (1 per cent). This was due to the fact that in Akola and Buldana some land which had been sown with cotton was reploughed and sown with spring crops, the cotton having been washed away or damaged by heavy rains. The outturn of the kharif crop was, on the whole, normal. The rabi area of the Central Provinces and Berar, which showed a decrease of 930,986 acres in the preceding year, increased by 828,372 (11 per cent). All Divisions, except Nerbudda, shared in the recovery. The increase was due to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time, while the shrinkage in the Nerbudda Division was caused, partly by the deficiency of rabi seed owing to the poor crop of the preceding year, partly by the extension of the kharif area. The rabi harvest was about 80 to 85 per cent of a normal crop. Owing to the timely and good rainfall which diminished the necessity for artificial watering, the area irrigated in the Central Provinces fell from 949,231 to 720,398 acres, or by 228,833 (24 per cent). The most marked decrease was in the Chhattisgarh

Division, where the area contracted by 218,505 acres (70 per cent). There was no scarcity of fodder or water.

Yield of
the autumn
(kharif) crops.

100. *Rice*.—The area under rice in the Central Provinces declined by 64,903 acres (1 per cent). The meteorological conditions were favourable for rice, and the rainfall was timely and evenly distributed with opportune breaks. But the damage caused by insects in the Chhattisgarh Division reduced what would otherwise have been a bumper crop in all the important rice districts. In the Central Provinces as a whole the outturn of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 92 and 121 respectively against 55 and 68 in the previous year.

Juar.—Juar, which is largely grown as a mixture with arhar (tur), occupied 1,841,813 acres in the Central Provinces, or 304,708 acres (23 per cent) more than the area sown in the previous year. In Berar the area increased by 21,746 acres (1 per cent). The increase was mainly due to the replacement of spoilt cotton by juar and dearth of fodder. The seasonal conditions were generally favourable for the cultivation of juar, and for both the Central Provinces and Berar the production stood at 100 in American notation against 79 in 1913-14.

Cotton.—In the Central Provinces the area under cotton increased by 43,863 acres (3 per cent). The increase was due mainly to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time, the paying nature of the crop, and the shortage of rabi seed in the Jubbulpore and Narsinghpur districts. In Berar the area fell by 111,601 acres (3 per cent), the shrinkage being due partly to substitution of juar and spring crops in place of spoilt cotton and partly to rotation of crops. The rain was generally sufficient and well distributed and the germination good, but the war having knocked the bottom out of the cotton market, the crop was neglected, and finally the hot weather and absence of dew in October and November caused a number of bolls to fall prematurely. In the Central Provinces a yield of 92 in American notation, against 85 in the previous year, was received. In Berar the outturn was the same as that of 1913-14, namely 91.

Til.—The area under til in the Central Provinces and Berar increased by 57,996 (7 per cent) and 2,075 acres (3 per cent) respectively. The increase, which was shared by fourteen districts, was due mainly to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time and to the high price which this commodity fetched in the previous year in Betul and Nagpur. Continuous rain in July slightly damaged the crop in heavy soil, but in August and September the rainfall was well distributed, while light showers received in the subsequent months were beneficial. Nagpur had a full crop (120). In Damoh, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Nimar, Betul, Bhandara and Yeotmal the yield was equal to or a little over the normal. For the Central Provinces and Berar together the outturn was 96 against 82 in the previous year.

Yield of the
spring (rabi)
crops.

Wheat.—The area under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces amounted to 3,202,151 acres, which is below the previous year's figures by 85,755 acres (3 per cent). The rainfall was well distributed for the preparation of the seed-bed during the monsoon, and germination was very successful except in Damoh where some resowing was necessary. October and November were, however, extremely hot and there was an almost complete absence of dew, and though fairly good winter rains were received throughout the Provinces, the crop suffered severely from drought in Narsinghpur and the poorer parts of Jubbulpore and Hoshangabad. Rust appeared in the Jubbulpore district and seriously damaged the standing crops, whilst in practically all districts some of the wheat was injured in the threshing floors by the rain. Thus what had at one time promised to be an excellent crop finally gave an outturn of only 86 per cent of the normal in the Central Provinces and Berar. Gram fared better than wheat, and considerably exceeded the yield of the previous year.

Linseed.—The area under linseed increased by 291,385 acres (32 per cent) in the Central Provinces. The expansion was due to favourable climatic conditions at sowing time, and in the case of Jubbulpore to the scarcity of wheat seed. The sowings were generally successful and germination was good. Winter showers in some districts benefited the crop, but insufficiency of moisture, cloudy weather, hail, rust and insects damaged the crop in several districts and reduced the outturn. In the Central Provinces and Berar together 80 per cent of a normal crop was reaped.

3—HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15.]

101. The favourable character of the season, in Nagpur, combined with the ample supply of water given by the new main from the Telinkheri tank, resulted in the attractive appearance of the Maharajbagh Garden being well maintained. Fruit culture remained considerably handicapped by water-logging, but the level of some of the low-lying ground was raised by carting a large quantity of soil into the garden. In spite of this difficulty several new varieties of fruit were experimented with, and varieties of orange and mango received from Bangalore gave hope of good results. The number of plants and trees which were sold or given away was 30,681, or nearly 4,000 below the total of the previous year. The net cost of the Maharajbagh Garden rose from Rs. 8,364 to Rs. 11,567. The appearance of the Telinkheri Garden showed a steady improvement, and it continued to be deservedly popular with the public, both European and Indian. There was a satisfactory increase in receipts at this garden, due entirely to improved sales of vegetables and fruit. The season on the whole was not favourable for the Pachmarhi and Pagara Gardens. Frost and hailstorms did great damage to the mango crop and were followed by a very dry and hot summer. A new well was almost completed to supply some of the deficiency of water caused by the removal of the dam across the nala. In spite of the adverse circumstances very fair crops of fruit and vegetables were obtained, and the display of flowers was particularly beautiful. The total receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 6,026 against Rs. 6,895 in the previous year, while the expenditure rose slightly from Rs. 6,163 to Rs. 6,316. The decrease in receipts was due to the military changes at Pachmarhi and Jubbulpore brought about by the war. Owing to the increasing importance of the garden at Pagara it was decided to station an Assistant Overseer in residential charge there.

Provincial
Gardens.

102. The total receipts fell from Rs. 12,856 to Rs. 12,706, while the District expenditure rose from Rs. 30,108 to Rs. 32,116: thus the net expenditure increased from Rs. 17,252 to Rs. 19,400. The inadequacy of the water-supply and the lack of suitable gardeners remained the principal difficulties with which the District Gardens had to contend. While some improvement was effected, sufficient funds were not available for dealing adequately with these difficulties. It is a costly matter sinking new or deepening old wells, and installing power pumping plant, while trained gardeners are few and command a higher pay than the Superintendents of District Gardens can offer.

District
Gardens.

4—FORESTS

FORESTS

[Reports of the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, with the review thereon, and Statistical Abstract, Volume II, Financial.]

103. During the course of the year the total area of forest under the control of the Forest Department decreased by seventeen square miles, from 19,684 to 19,667 square miles. The area of A Class forest increased by twenty-seven square miles, but this increase was more than counterbalanced by decreases of seventeen and twenty-seven square miles in the areas of B-1 and C Classes of forests respectively. The increase in A Class forest was shared by all the Circles, and was mainly due to afforestation, revision of boundaries and the purchase of private land. The decrease in B-1 forests occurred in the Northern and Southern Circles from disforestation and transfer to the A Class. The whole of B-1 forest in the Northern Circle has now been disforested. The entire decrease in C Class forest was in Berar and was due chiefly to disforestation. The percentage of Reserved Forests on the total area of the Central Provinces was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 19.7, or approximately one-fifth. During the year 29.24 square miles were finally settled, while at the close of the year settlement operations were in progress in respect of an area of 22.85 square miles.

Forest areas.

104. The total expenditure on demarcation work during the year was Rs. 22,562 against Rs. 25,748 in the previous year, showing a reduction of Rs. 3,186. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 22,562 a sum of Rs. 2,697 was spent on new works, *viz.*, on 103 miles of new demarcation, the erection of 3,111 new

Demarcation
and Survey.

pillars and the demolition of 1,441 old ones. The five-year schemes of demarcation work were nearly worked up to in all of the Divisions except in the Melghat and Saugor Divisions. The scheme for the Melghat Division has been revised and is to begin from 1915-16, while that for the Saugor Division is still pending the revision and simplification of boundaries which is in progress.

The field work done by the Survey of India Department during the year was confined to the Berar Circle in which parties Nos. 5 and 6 continued their operations. The former party worked in the Akola Division in which a Reserved Forest area of $7\frac{1}{2}$ square miles was surveyed on the 2-inch scale. The latter, in addition to carrying out Forest Surveys on the 2-inch scale, with boundary traverses on the 4-inch scale, completed the survey of the remaining portions of Dadgaon and Gumi Regular Felling Series in the Buldana Division, and also of small areas of B and C Classes of forest. Survey work was also continued through the agency of the local staff in all the three Circles. The total expenditure incurred during the year on the constitution of State Forests amounted to Rs. 42,715 against Rs. 43,631 in the previous year.

Working-plans.

105. Revised working-plans were sanctioned during the year for the forests of the Nagpur-Wardha and Bilaspur Divisions. The Revenue Officer's reports on the working-plans for the Balaghat and Melghat Divisions were submitted for orders, while good progress was made with the working-plans for the Chhindwara, Akola, Yeotmal, Amraoti, North-Raipur and South-Raipur Divisions. Out of the total of 19,667 square miles of forest under the control of the Forest Department, working-plans had been sanctioned for 11,360 square miles, new plans were under preparation for 5,830 square miles, plans have still to be taken in hand for 3,611 square miles, and no plans are required for 2,113 square miles—mostly B-I Class forest ultimately to be opened for cultivation. The annual plans of operations were generally adhered to as far as practicable, but certain projects had to be abandoned owing to the reduction of expenditure on account of the war.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

106. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 90,331 as compared with Rs. 1,37,628 in the previous year, the decrease of Rs. 47,297 being due to the curtailment of the budget. The outlay on new works was reduced and only Rs. 56,776 were spent during the year as compared with Rs. 1,04,046 in the preceding year. The new works on which this amount was spent consisted of 175 miles of regular cart roads, 35 miles of coupe and feeder roads, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of inspection and other paths, $339\frac{1}{2}$ miles of alignments with road traces and three river crossings. The sum of Rs. 33,555 was spent on repairs over a length of 5,270 miles. The total outlay on buildings was Rs. 78,355 against Rs. 90,667 in the previous year. The saving of Rs. 12,312 was made on both new works and repairs. On the former Rs. 50,347 was spent, and Rs. 27,442 on the latter. Notwithstanding the limited funds available good progress was made in the important work of housing the subordinate establishment, to which 88 per cent of the total outlay of Rs. 50,347 was devoted. Good progress was also made in extending the buildings of the Forest School at Balaghat, which has now accommodation for fifty students. The total expenditure on tanks, wells and other miscellaneous works fell from Rs. 28,347 to Rs. 25,446, of which Rs. 17,520 was spent on new works and Rs. 7,926 on repairs.

Forest offences.

107. The total number of forest offences reported during the year fell from 12,981 to 12,556. The reduction of 425 took place under all heads of offences, except one, and was attributed mainly to more effective check and supervision on the part of the staff and to the levy of heavier compensation in cases compounded. The offences, in which the largest decrease took place were unauthorized fellings and unauthorized grazing. Of the total number of cases reported, two per cent were taken into Court, eighty-three per cent were settled by compensation, three per cent remained undetected and twelve per cent were pending at the close of the year. Of the 314 cases taken into Court, convictions were obtained in 254 cases. Of the 11,518 cases compounded, compensation was recovered in all save eight: the average compensation realized per case and per person was respectively Rs. 9-12-7 and Rs. 3-9-6 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 8-6-0 and Rs. 2-11-5 in the Southern Circle and Rs. 11-1-6 and Rs. 4-10-7 in the Berar Circle.

108. The area over which fire-protection was attempted rose from 11,409 square miles to 11,705 square miles. All three Circles contributed towards this increase. As the result of a successful year's working, 98 per cent of the area over which protection was attempted, was successfully protected at a cost of Rs. 1,10,491. Excluding the Hoshangabad Division where the protection was completely successful, the lowest percentage of failure of fire-protection, '007, occurred in the North-Mandla Division, and the highest, 7·7, in the Nimar Division. The average cost of protection per square mile decreased from Rs. 9·11·2 in the year 1913-14 to Rs. 9·7·0 in 1914-15.

Protection
from fire.

109. The area worked by systematic fellings rose from 180,239 acres in 1913-14 to 184,715 in 1914-15. In addition to this, unregulated fellings were carried out in all Divisions, except Damoh, of the Northern Circle, and in the Berar Circle. In the former they were generally restricted to areas open to commuters and those over which the working-plan prescriptions are at present held in abeyance, while in the latter to C Class forests and Nistar areas in Betul. The total number of animals grazed in Government forests during the year was 3,748,741 against 3,956,717 in the previous year. The decrease of 207,976 animals was shared by all the Circles, and was mainly due to the mortality among cattle during the previous year and to the exclusion of transit cattle from those shown under full grazing rates. During the year 1,835,635 animals grazed at full rates, 1,674,664 at privileged rates and 238,442 free of cost, the corresponding numbers in the preceding year being respectively 2,641,741, 1,101,483 and 213,493. The total value of grazing calculated at full rates amounted to Rs. 23,14,698 against Rs. 16,56,347 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 6,58,351 was due to the introduction of revised grazing rates both in the Central Provinces proper and Berar. The actual revenue from grazing rose from Rs. 11,86,190 to Rs. 14,09,149, an increase of Rs. 2,22,959. In the Central Provinces proper there was a decrease of Rs. 77,468, but this was more than counterbalanced by an increase of Rs. 2,24,912 in Berar where the enhanced rates were well received, while Rs. 45,205 was recovered on transit licenses, and Rs. 30,310 as surtax for grazing in the A Class forests of Berar. The grazing incidence per head of cattle varied in the Northern Circle from 2·1 to 6 acres and in the Southern Circle from 2·9 to 12·9 acres. In Berar the minimum and maximum incidences in A Class forests were 2·8 and 10·1 acres and in C Class forests 0·5 and 0·7 of an acre. The average incidence for the Provinces as a whole was 2·8 acres against 2·7 acres in the previous year. The total outturn of major produce fell by 8,018,084 cubic feet. The decrease was in both timber and fuel, and was ascribed to the dullness of the market. The total value of minor produce removed by all agencies rose by Rs. 18,699.

Exploitation,
silviculture
and manage-
ment.

110. The gross revenue rose from Rs. 32,69,894 in the previous year to Rs. 32,73,539, and the expenditure fell from Rs. 20,07,883 to Rs. 18,80,927. There was thus an increase of Rs. 1,30,601 in the net revenue of the year, which rose from Rs. 12,62,011 to Rs. 13,92,612.

Financial
results.

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1914, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

111. Two new coal mines were opened during the year, bringing the total number of collieries in the Provinces from five to seven; but the total output of coal, which rose from 235,650 tons in 1913 to 244,745 tons, was almost entirely derived from the four mines at Mohpani, Ballarpur, Barkuhi and Chandameta. The largest increase in output was at Ballarpur. A decrease of some 5,000 tons at Mohpani was counterbalanced by an increase at Barkuhi, while the outturn at Chandameta remained practically unchanged. The general average price of coal at the pit-head was Rs. 4·7·3 per ton, or a few annas higher than that of last year. Collieries gave employment to 3,043 persons as compared with 2,665 in the preceding year.

Collieries.

112. At the commencement of the year manganese prospects were bright and there was considerable activity everywhere. The number of mines increased

Manganese
Mining.

by ten. The outbreak of the war, however, gave a serious setback to the industry, and the closure of the American and Continental markets, and the higher freights and insurance charges prevailing, restricted the output and affected prices. Throughout the Provinces, the output for the year fell from 550,595 to 510,936 tons, or by 7 per cent. The total value of the provincial output also fell from Rs. 31,88,390 to Rs. 22,02,272, and there was a decline in the average value at the pit's mouth in all the important districts, the provincial average being Rs. 4-5-0 against Rs. 5-12-7 per ton in 1913. The average number of persons employed in manganese mines rose from 10,330 to 10,702 during the year.

Miscellaneous.

113. The extension and full working throughout the year of the Tata Iron and Steel Company's concession at Lohara in the Chanda District raised the quantity of iron extracted from 844 to 16,523 tons. The quantity of limestone won from the Jubbulpore quarries, the number of which increased by three, more than doubled, and the price per ton advanced from ten to twelve annas at the pit's mouth. Eight other miscellaneous quarries for galena, Fuller's earth, soapstone, iron ore and clay were worked. The health of the workmen was generally good during the year. There were slight outbreaks of cholera at the Kachurwahi, Waraigaon and Kodegaon mines in Nagpur, at the Tirodi mine in Balaghat, and in the Jubbulpore district generally. There were also slight outbreaks of small-pox in the same districts, and at the Mohpani mine in Narsinghpur. The number of accidents occurring during the year fell from 27 to 24, and the number of lives lost from fifteen to twelve. In most cases the accidents were due to mischance or to carelessness and disregard of rules and orders by the victims themselves. There were in all 102 inspections as compared with 106 in the preceding year. Eight prosecutions under Section 22 (3) (e) of the Indian Mines Act were instituted and all ended in the conviction of the accused. 72 prospecting licenses and 16 mining leases were granted as against 48 prospecting licenses and the same number of mining leases in the previous year.

MANUFACTURES

6—MANUFACTURES

[Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

**Number of
Factories,
Employees,
Accidents.**

114. The year 1914 was the first whole year during which the new Act was in force throughout the Central Provinces and Berar. It was marked by the low price of cotton and by the outbreak of the war. As a result the total number of factories fell from 487 in 1913 to 438 in 1914, of which thirty-eight remained closed during the year. The total number of operatives employed was 47,159 as against 48,842 in the previous year. There was a small decrease in the number of accidents from 172 to 162. It is satisfactory that no fatal accidents occurred and that there was a fall of one-third in the number classed as serious. Sanitary conditions were, on the whole, satisfactory and the health of the operatives good.

**Prosecutions.
Supervision.**

115. Apart from the prosecution of thirty-eight factory Managers in the Wardha district for not submitting the Annual Return No. I, there were eighteen prosecutions under the Act, seventeen of which resulted in convictions. The number of inspections fell from 1,380 to 776, while only ten factories located in outlying areas were left uninspected.

TRADE

7—TRADE

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1915, and Volume of Prices and Wages in India.]

General.

116. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to 56½ million maunds valued at 28½ crores of rupees as compared with 74½ million maunds valued at 38½ crores of rupees in the preceding year. The trade of the Province depends mainly on the success of its agriculture, and the crops which directly influenced the returns for 1914-15 were the spring crops of 1913-14 and the autumn crops of 1914-15. The spring or rabi crops of 1913-14 suffered from various causes and the final outturn was estimated at less than 75 per cent of the normal, while in the case of the autumn or kharif crops the outturn was approximately normal. The variations in the average price of the

main kinds of agricultural produce were much more marked than usual, and this result was ascribed to the outbreak of war in August 1914. The rapid rise in the price of wheat, and to a less degree of gram, was largely due to war panic. Stocks were not seriously short but were held up owing to uncertainty as to the future. The plentiful harvest of rice, and the fact that ordinarily it more than suffices for the Province, prevented a large rise in its price. The slump in cotton was due to panic and uncertainty, while the price of linseed and til, which are largely produced for export, also responded to the unsettled state of the export trade.

117. The bulk of imports decreased from $25\frac{3}{4}$ to 25 millions of maunds and the value fell from $13\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees. The greatest decrease occurred in metals, in which the value of articles imported fell from 157 lakhs to less than 110 lakhs; but there were also large decreases in brass, unwrought and wrought, copper, commercial forms of wrought iron and steel, machinery and hardware and cutlery. None, however, of this great decline in trade was in any way due to diminished prosperity or to any fall in the purchasing power of the people of the Provinces; it was simply due to the dislocation of trade on the outbreak of war and the general curtailment of expenditure. **Imports.**

118. Exports fell in bulk from 49 to $31\frac{1}{2}$ millions of maunds and in value from 25 to 16 crores of rupees. The chief decreases were under the heads of raw cotton, grain and pulse, manganese ore and oilseeds. The decline in the export of raw cotton was due to much of the year's crop being held up in the hope of obtaining better prices, and in the case of grain and pulse it was almost entirely due to the nervousness of traders who held up stocks. The fall was considerable in the case of rice, but the bulk of the decline was in wheat of which the exports fell from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to a little over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds. The drop in the export of manganese ore was due to the closure of the Central European markets and to the lack of sea transport facilities. The oilseed trade declined greatly, the value of exports being less than half that of an ordinary year. This decline was attributed partly to the large contraction of area put under oilseed crops, partly to the holding up of considerable stocks in order to secure better prices. **Exports.**

8—PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS

[Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department for 1913-14, and Statistical Abstract, Volume I.]

119. The year 1914-15 was again one of great activity in the Public Works Department and the expenditure, Rs. 87,10,000, was the largest hitherto incurred in the Province, as the grants were given on a liberal scale and good progress was made in disposing of them. The expenditure on Imperial works was Rs. 3,22,017, on Provincial works Rs. 73,53,639 and on Contribution works Rs. 10,30,999. The percentage of expenditure on establishment exhibited a further decrease from 17.56 to 15.27.

120. Good progress was made in the construction of the new General Post Office and the Post and Telegraph Audit Office at Nagpur. Both were nearing completion at the close of the year. The bungalow for the Postmaster-General, the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Tajnapeth, and the Post Offices at Katol and Pandhurna were completed, and combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Sakoli, Jalgaon and Katghora were in progress. **Imperial Works.**

121. The expenditure on Provincial works amounted to Rs. 73,53,639, of which Rs. 41,82,217 was spent on original works, the balance being spent on maintenance and repair of existing roads and buildings, establishment and plant. The principal works carried out are detailed below. **Provincial Works.**

122. The expenditure on Forest buildings amounted to Rs. 89,556. Bungalows for an Assistant Conservator at Akote, and for the Forest officer at Betul and a bungalow and office at Mandla were completed. The enlargement of the Forest School at Balaghat and the construction of an office at Buldana were in progress. Excise buildings accounted for an outlay of Rs. 99,107. The new distillery at Radour and the bonded warehouses at Baloda Bazar and Nainpur were completed. **Buildings.**

The new distillery at Raipur neared completion, while bonded warehouses at six places were begun.

A sum of Rs. 12,168 was spent on additions and alterations to Government House at Nagpur, and Rs. 9,663 on improvements to the Residency at Pachmarhi. Satisfactory progress was made in the construction of the Legislative Council Hall and the large programme of residential buildings at Nagpur was practically completed by the completion of fourteen bungalows during the year.

The expenditure on Land Revenue buildings was Rs. 1,89,399. Extensions to the office of the Commissioner of Settlements at Nagpur and Tahsil buildings at Lakhnadon, Niwas and Katghora were completed. The Civil Court building at Khamgaon was converted into a Tahsil building and Tahsil buildings at Katol, Gondia and Hinganghat were in progress. A portable Settlement Office was constructed at Seoni at a cost of Rs. 36,792. Considerable progress was made in the construction of quarters for officials at various Tahsils.

Expenditure for the Agriculture Department amounted to Rs. 52,906. The Agricultural Laboratory at Nagpur was completed at a total cost of two-and-a-half lakhs, while the Experimental Farm at Sindewahi and the Cattle-Breeding Farm at Boregaon were practically completed. The demands of the Educational Department amounted to Rs. 6,82,061. The Urdu Normal School at Amraoti, the Anglo-Vernacular School at Malkapur, a Laboratory for the High School at Amraoti, and a bungalow for the Inspector of Schools at Amraoti were completed. The more important works, however, such as the Arts College at Jubbulpore, the Hostel and Laboratory attached to the Muhammadan High School at Amraoti, and the High Schools at Bilaspur, Chanda, Khamgaon, Bhandara and Betul were still in progress at the close of the year.

The Department of Law and Justice accounted for an expenditure of Rs. 2,92,939. The extensions to the Civil Court House and the new Circuit House at Wardha were completed at a total cost of Rs. 76,985, while the Munsiff's Court House at Gondia was practically completed. The construction of the new Circuit House at Buldana, and of Munsiff's Court Houses at Ramtek, Arvi, Burhanpur and Murwara was in progress. Materials to the value of Rs. 31,317 were collected for the construction of new Civil Court Houses at Narsinghpur and Chhindwara, a Munsiff's Court House at Khurai, and additions and alterations to the District Court Houses at Bilaspur and Mandla.

The expenditure on Police buildings was Rs. 4,47,653. The Kotwali at Amraoti, the Police Station Houses at Ganeshpeth and Burhi, and the Police Office at Chanda were completed, while a bungalow for a Deputy Superintendent of Police at Akola and quarters for the Police Sergeants at Nagpur and Kamptee were commenced. New Station houses and quarters were in progress at fifty places.

The total expenditure on Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums was Rs. 1,45,977, of which the chief item was Rs. 1,13,197 for the new Medical School at Nagpur. Bungalows for the Civil Surgeons at Nagpur and Jubbulpore were completed, and the construction of the Central Vaccine Depôt at Nagpur was begun. The expenditure on Jails amounted to Rs. 25,610.

Communications.

123. The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 30,49,224, of which Rs. 13,88,165 was laid out on original works. The most important lines of road communication under construction during the year were the Nagpur-Amraoti, Chanda-Allapalli-Sironcha, Anji-Wadhona and Malkapur-Chikli roads. Considerable sums were again spent on causeways and bridges, with the object of keeping important lines of communication open throughout the year. The submerged bridge over the Wainganga river at Balaghat was completed at a cost of Rs. 61,411, and several other bridges of this type were in progress. Rs. 29,459 was spent on Railway feeder roads, while the expenditure on arboriculture amounted to Rs. 74,079.

124. Water-works and drainage works are the two classes of Sanitary works with which the Public Works Department is concerned. Rs. 72,074 was spent during the year on the construction of the Akola Water-works and Rs. 10,000 on a supplementary water-supply at Buldana, while work was started on the Water-works at Arvi and Damoh, the estimate for each being slightly over four lakhs of rupees. Estimates for the Masod Tank Scheme at Amraoti, and for the Water-works at Wardha were ready, but had to be held in abeyance on account of the war. The projects for the water-supply of four other towns were under consideration and schemes for the water-supply of seven towns were either under investigation or being worked out. Satisfactory progress was made with the Nagpur Drainage Scheme. At the close of the year an expenditure of Rs. 7,73,903 had been incurred against an estimate of sixteen lakhs of rupees. A large amount of rock cutting delayed the work on the main sewer, but at the close of the year only five chains remained to be done, while five branch lines had been completed. A Drainage Scheme for Craddock Town, Nagpur, at a cost of Rs. 2,10,550 was sanctioned. The Wardha Drainage Works were completed at an expenditure of Rs. 1,79,983 against an estimate of Rs. 1,93,000, and work on the Harda Drainage Scheme was started during the year. Drainage projects for Saugor, Bhandara and Bilaspur were prepared.

125. Among the works undertaken for District Councils were the construction of the Khandwa-Jaswari Section of the Khandwa-Melghat road, a high level bridge over the Kandali river on the Seoni-Malwa feeder road, and the improvement of the Gourelia-Pendra road. A bungalow at Pachmarhi for Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal was commenced and Rs. 31,805 spent during the year. The subsidiary buildings of the Rajkumar College at Raipur were completed and the boarding-house was begun.

9—IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION

[Brief Note on Irrigation work done in the Central Provinces during the year 1914-15, for the Irrigation portion of the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report, and Statistical Abstract, Volume I.]

126. The monsoon, throughout the Province, gave ample and well-distributed rain, and cultivators found it unnecessary to take as much water as in the previous year when the rainfall was deficient. Consequently the total area irrigated was only 44,405 acres compared with 71,021 acres in the preceding year. The irrigation done during the year more nearly approached that of 1912-13 when 49,174 acres were irrigated.

127. The progress on the Mahanadi Canal was very satisfactory. The head-works were completed during the year and the opening ceremony was performed by the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner on the 12th February 1915. The general progress on the Sukha dam of the Tendula reservoir was not as satisfactory as had been expected, owing to the contractors not providing sufficient plant. Good progress, however, was made with the distribution system. On the Wain-ganga Canal progress was very satisfactory. The head-works were nearly completed, and of the remainder of the project, about two-thirds had been completed by the end of the year. A second revised estimate for the Gorajheri tank, providing for lining with concrete $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the main canal, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Sawargaon distributary, and for shutters on the waste weir of the tank, was sanctioned by the Government of India towards the end of the year. The work provided for under the former estimate had been practically completed, but this additional work was found necessary in order to provide sufficient water for the extensive area of sugarcane which the Central Provinces Sugar Syndicate proposes to grow on waste lands under the tank. On nearly all the works the progress made was better than in the previous year, and the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of labour was largely overcome by better arrangements for importing labour from districts where a surplus existed.

128. The grants and expenditure under the various fund heads were:—

Head of Account.			Grant.	Expenditure.
			Rs.	Rs.
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works	...	...	18,14,000	18,34,950
42.—Major Works—Working Expenses	...	...	78,000	77,880
49.—Productive Irrigation Works	...	...	25,00,000	23,94,498
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	...	...	9,04,000	9,06,730
Deposits—Contribution	...	...	...	5
Total			52,96,000	54,14,063

Revenue.

129. The rates for irrigation of all crops remained the same as in the previous year, except the rate for kharif crops in the Raipur and Drug districts which was raised from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8-0 per acre in the former district, and from Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8-0 in the latter. The total revenue demand for major and minor works taken together was Rs. 1,69,421, of which Rs. 1,41,625 was collected during the year.

General.

130. The Agricultural Department, by demonstration and experiment at the several Government Farms, did much to stimulate irrigation. The demonstration work was chiefly concerned with the introduction of better methods of rice cultivation, and the extension of cultivation of sugarcane, groundnuts and garden crops.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV (b) of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

131. The following statement compares the receipts and expenditure and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1913-14 and 1914-15 :—

	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenue ...	1,11,90,264	1,18,20,873	70,11,620	70,38,398	...	...
Provincial Revenue ...	3,06,83,749	2,93,07,324	2,88,02,504	3,05,15,078	1,09,53,278	97,45,524
Deposits of Local Funds—						
District Funds ...	33,92,932	37,00,345	31,71,624	36,75,015	18,91,819	19,17,149
Jaglia Local Cess Funds ...	5,22,411	5,10,851	5,28,330	5,17,946	2,94,690	2,87,595
Other Local Funds ...	11,99,125	12,60,482	10,67,153	11,45,754	6,61,983	7,76,713
Municipal Funds ...	28,44,337	29,43,007	26,57,652	30,90,627	10,56,529	9,02,909
Total ...	4,98,32,818	4,95,42,882	4,32,38,883	4,59,88,818	1,48,58,299	1,36,29,890

REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL

132. The Imperial Revenue for 1914-15 was Rs. 6,30,609 more than that of 1913-14, while the expenditure in 1914-15 was Rs. 26,778 more than that of the previous year. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table :—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1913-14.	1914-15.		1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ...	93,56,130	94,07,881	Famine Relief (Civil) ...	14,785	1,12,620
Opium ...	5,20,891	5,02,835	Protective Works—Irriga-	19,80,776	18,34,906
Stamps ...	19,69,794	18,10,646	tion.		
Excise ...	29,06,025	27,63,790	Major Works—Irrigation ...	5,51,339	7,19,349
Customs ...	3,00,919	2,54,937	Civil Works—(P. W. O.)...	11,65,861	10,80,752
Income-tax ...	4,31,370	4,54,454	Other heads ...	32,98,859	32,90,771
Irrigation Major Works ...	1,44,739	1,03,880			
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	—47,83,264	—38,37,803			
Other heads ...	3,43,660	3,60,253			
Total ...	1,11,90,264	1,18,20,873	Total ...	70,11,620	70,38,398

REVENUE

133. *Land Revenue (Imperial share one-half).*—The increase was mainly due to increased receipts under Ordinary Revenue.

Opium.—The decrease was due to the fall in the sale of opium occasioned by the dislocation of trade on account of the war.

Stamps.—The decreases occurred under (a) Sale of General Stamps and (3) Sale of Court-fee Stamps, and were due, partly to the effects of the financial crisis at the end of 1913 and to two successive moderate harvests in certain districts of the Province, partly to the dislocation of business caused by the present war.

Excise.—The large decrease was shared by all the heads, and was mainly due to the fall in consumption in consequence of conditions due to the war.

Customs.—The actuals of 1913-14 included Rs. 9,000 on account of arrear-recoveries. The decrease was due to the disturbed condition of trade on account of the war.

Income-tax.—The increase was mainly under Ordinary Collections, and was the result of the revised methods of assessment introduced in August 1911 and the comparatively prosperous condition of the people.

Irrigation Major Works.—The decrease was due to good and seasonable rainfall which diminished the demand for water from irrigation tanks.

Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.—This head has been newly opened under the orders of the Government of India to show the net result of the various contributions or assignments from Imperial to Provincial Revenues and *vice versa*. Hitherto such contributions have been shown as deductions from, or additions to, the Imperial and Provincial shares of Land Revenue, but they will in future be shown under this new head, which will have the advantage of exhibiting clearly the transactions under Land Revenue. The decrease was chiefly due to the absence of non-recurring assignments, and also to the reduction of the assignment in connection with the Famine Relief Scheme.

EXPENDITURE

Famine Relief (Civil).—The increase was due to the scarcity that prevailed, during the earlier part of the year, in the Jubbulpore Division.

Protective Works—Irrigation.—The increase in 1913-14 was mainly due to the good progress made in connection with the Tendula Canal. Special provision had been made for that year on account of the improved labour conditions brought about by the scarcity.

Major Works—Irrigation.—The increase was mainly due to the proportionate increase of capital outlay.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The decrease was due to the greatly diminished expenditure on the new General Post Office at Nagpur and on the Postal and Telegraph Minor Works.

REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL

134. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1913-14 and 1914-15. The details of the Major heads under which material differences have occurred are given below :—

Revenue.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1913-14.	1914-15.		1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ...	93,61,099	94,12,949	Land Revenue ...	40,18,749	41,15,623
Stamps ...	19,69,794	18,10,646	Excise ...	2,59,881	3,19,009
Excise ...	87,18,074	82,91,371	Interest on Ordinary Debt ...	1,38,183	1,74,443
Income-tax ...	4,31,370	4,54,454	General Administration ...	9,30,430	9,71,025
Forest ...	31,86,453	32,72,529	Law and Justice—Courts of Law...	27,86,971	28,17,148
Registration ...	4,18,084	3,47,873	Law and Justice—Jails ...	6,80,139	7,51,965
Law and Justice— Courts of Law.	2,89,281	2,58,662	Police ...	34,11,226	34,60,413
Education ...	2,03,667	2,14,529	Education ...	22,02,034	26,95,062
Receipts in aid of Superannuation, Re- tired and Compas- sionate Allowances.	1,24,284	1,78,421	Medical ...	11,66,605	13,98,606
Miscellaneous ...	1,86,431	2,07,555	Miscellaneous ...	1,25,804	1,62,041
Civil Works (P. W. O.)	2,40,045	2,60,654	Reduction or Avoidance of Debt...	12,80,000	4,53,574
Transfers between Im- perial and Prov- incial.	47,83,464	38,37,803	Irrigation Minor Works ...	5,73,720	9,06,729
Other heads ...	7,71,603	7,59,878	Civil Works (C. O.) ...	3,37,559	6,13,734
			Do. (P. W. O.) ...	65,46,226	73,29,526
			Other heads ...	43,44,977	43,46,180
Total ...	3,06,81,749	2,93,97,324	Total ...	1,88,02,504	3,05,15,078

REVENUE

The variations under the heads which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial have been explained under Imperial Revenue and Finance. The variations under the remaining heads are noted below :—

Forest.—The increase was due partly to the natural growth of revenue and partly to the introduction in the Berar Circle of the enhanced rates under the new grazing rules.

Registration.—The heavy decrease, which mainly occurred under Fees for Registering Documents, was due to the falling off in registration business owing to the disturbed condition of trade on account of the war.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The decrease was chiefly under Magisterial fines, which were reduced on account of the disturbed condition of trade.

Education.—The increase was due, partly to the provincialization of some of the schools, partly to the increase in the number of boys and the full effect of the increased rates of fees.

Receipts in aid of Superannuation, Retired and Compassionate Allowances.—The increase was due to increased pension contributions paid by District Councils, owing to the revision of the pay of teachers in vernacular schools, and to an increase in the number of officers paying contributions at the higher rates under the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Regulations.

Miscellaneous.—The increase was mainly under Unclaimed Deposits and was partly counterbalanced by decreased receipts from the sale of land and houses, &c.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The increase was due to larger realization of revenue under Rents of Buildings, Sales of Buildings, Sales of Produce and Recoveries from Electric Installations.

EXPENDITURE

135. *Land Revenue*—The increase was mainly due to (a) the inception of Settlement operations and map correction work in new districts, (b) increased expenditure under Salaries and Travelling Allowance owing to the recall of officers from leave, (c) greater charges on land revenue collections and (d) payments to district and village officials. These were partly counterbalanced by a decrease under Management of Government Estates owing to a diminished expenditure under Outlay on Improvements.

Excise.—The increase occurred under District Executive Establishment and was due to the re-organisation of the Excise Department, which was undertaken in the latter part of the year. There was also a nominal increase under Superintendence, due to the fact that the charges on account of the Commissioner of Excise were shown under this head, with reference to Note 104-A, Appendix P, Civil Account Code. There was a small decrease under Distilleries owing to the merging of the Distillery Staff in the general Excise Staff with effect from the date of re-organisation.

Interest on Ordinary Debt.—The increase was the result of the larger advances to cultivators and loans to weavers which were necessitated by the scarcity in certain districts of the Province.

General Administration.—The increase was mainly on account of the purchase of a railway saloon and a motor-car for the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The increase was under Criminal Courts and resulted from the larger expenditure on Travelling Allowances and Contingencies.

Law and Justice—Jails.—The main causes of the increase were dearness of rations, the rise in the number of prisoners and large purchases of raw materials for meeting the demands of the Supply and Transport Department for articles of Jail Manufacture.

Police.—The increase was mainly under District Executive Force and was due, partly to the revision of the cadre of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and other Police reforms, partly to fewer absences of superior officers on leave.

Education.—The increase was general and was caused mainly by larger grants sanctioned in aid of Municipal and Local Schools, grants-in-aid paid out of the Government of India assignments, the appointment of officers on special duty in connection with the Nagpur University Scheme, appointments of a second Inspectress and Assistant Inspectresses of Schools and their establishments, and the equipment of the Engineering School and motor classes started during the year.

Medical.—The increase was chiefly the result of larger payments to Local Bodies out of Sanitation grants, heavier expenditure under grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries and additional appointments of Civil, Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

Miscellaneous.—The increase was mainly due to large expenditure incurred on the acquisition of land for the extension of the Amraoti town and to a special grant to the Saugor Municipality to cover deficit balance.

Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.—The decrease was due to the fact that the maximum of Rs. 80,00,000 fixed by the Government of India for the Famine Relief Scheme was reached in the year 1914-15.

Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation.—The larger outlay was due to the special provision of funds on account of the abnormal labour conditions caused by scarcity in the early part of the year.

Civil Works (in charge of Civil Officers).—The increase was mainly caused by heavier payments to District Councils for the maintenance of buildings and roads transferred to the control of the Local Fund Engineers.

Civil Works (in charge of Public Works Officers).—The increase was mainly due to additional expenditure on Educational buildings, the construction of roads, Establishment, the purchase of new steam-rollers and tools and repairs to tools and plant.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

I—DETAILS OF CENSUS

136. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 37—54 of the Administration Report for the year 1911-12.

DETAILS
OF
CENSUS

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

BIRTHS
AND
DEATHS

137. No change was made in the system of registration of vital statistics except in the Balaghat district, where better arrangements were made for the collection of statistics in forest villages. The Forest Officers were made responsible for sending the statistics complete to the Civil Surgeon on a fixed date for incorporation in the latter's monthly return. The annual exhortations and the issue of instructions for the correct classification of diseases led to better registration in municipal towns, but there was still much room for improvement. During the year 791 persons were prosecuted and fined Rs. 807-1-0, an average of Re. 1 per defaulter, and 138 were warned for failing to report.

138. The healthiness of the previous year 1913 was reflected in the increased birth-rate of the year under report. The number of recorded births was 714,917 as compared with 685,557 in 1913; the respective ratios *per mille* of population work out at 51.37 and 49.26 against the quinquennial mean of 50.80. Most of the districts recorded an excess of births over the figures of 1913. The percentage of male to female population was 104.32.

139. The number of recorded deaths rose from 421,395 to 510,652 and the death-rate from 30.28 to 36.69, or 6.41 *per mille* over the previous year; it was still, however, below the quinquennial mean of 37.05. The proportion of infantile to total mortality was sixty per cent, an increase of three per cent as compared with the previous year, when the figures were exceptionally good. This rate, though still deplorably high, is not surprising in view of the less healthy conditions of the year.

140. The mortality from various diseases showed an increase under every head except small-pox. The ravages of cholera, under which head 20,345 deaths were recorded, were particularly severe, and the part played by fairs in the dissemination of the disease was again evident. Small-pox claimed fewer victims than last year. Plague appeared only towards the end of the year, when serious epidemics occurred in Nagpur, Saugor and Hoshangabad, spreading subsequently to other districts. The fever mortality rose from 195,534 deaths in 1913 to 234,528 in 1914, or by 2.81 *per mille*. Dysentery and diarrhoea also were responsible for an unusually high mortality.

141. The anti-plague measures were chiefly confined to inoculation and Special evacuation. The total number of inoculations was 7,994 against 2,046 in the previous year. Apart from epidemic work the plague staff was usefully employed

in travelling dispensary work. The proposals drawn up by the Sanitary Board for increasing the efficiency of the vaccinating staff were sanctioned by the Local Administration, and a definite advance was made during the year towards dealing with the grave problem of infant mortality by the entertainment in several towns of municipal midwives or female Sub-Assistant Surgeons. The sale of quinine continued, but in some districts the result was disappointing. In Nimar, where malarial fever was very prevalent, sales were poor; the vendors selected were not shopkeepers and consequently no interest was taken by them. The total sum realised by sales, however, rose from Rs. 9,352 to Rs. 9,572.

EMIGRATION
AND
IMMIGRATION

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1915, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

142. As was foreshadowed in last year's report, the recruiting figures fell with the return of more stable economic conditions. In the mining and cotton tracts the local demand for labour more than fully absorbed the supply, and recruiting from outside went on for the manganese mines. By far the larger proportion of coolies recruited for Assam came from the Native States adjoining the Central Provinces. Recruitment by contractors under Chapter III of the Act, which was finally abolished at the close of the year, showed a marked decline. In view of the impending abolition of this form of recruitment, many contractors, whose licenses expired during the course of the year, did not renew them; licenses were also freely refused, especially to new applicants. Thus there were only twelve contractors against forty-five contractors and sub-contractors last year; and the number of recruiters, which was also artificially limited to a standard maximum in the Jubbulpore district, fell from 312 to 121. There was an almost corresponding decline in the number of coolies recruited, from 2,715 to 1,322. The fall in sardari recruitment under Chapter IV was less marked. Throughout the Province the recruiting agency fell from seventeen local agents and 4,651 sardars to sixteen local agents and 4,386 sardars, the Jubbulpore, Seoni and Balaghat districts alone showing any increase under this head. There was a somewhat larger decline in the number of recruits secured, which fell to 4,788. Four sardars specially empowered under the now repealed Section 90 of the Act worked in the Bilaspur district during the year, against four in the Jubbulpore district last year; they recruited only three coolies.

Working of
Act VI of 1901.

143. The number of irregularities and prosecutions naturally fell with the decline in contractor's recruiting and the decrease in the strength of the agency. There were only three prosecutions all of which were successful; an appeal by Government against the acquittal on appeal of one of the notorious Bilaspur offenders referred to in last year's report also ended in the restoration of the original conviction.

Financial.

144. Receipts during the year fell from Rs. 5,436 to Rs. 2,576 and expenditure from Rs. 923 to Rs. 695.

MEDICAL
RELIEF

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

[Annual Notes on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number of
dispensaries.

145. The year opened with 272 hospitals and dispensaries. During the year fourteen new dispensaries were opened and thirteen closed. There were thus 273 hospitals and dispensaries at work at the end of the year, twenty-nine of which were maintained by the State, 166 by Local Bodies and twenty-nine by Railways, the rest being either private or State-aided institutions. Three peripatetic dispensaries, which were sanctioned as an experimental measure for one year to work in unhealthy areas in the districts of Raipur, Mandla and Betul, commenced their work about the middle of 1914. Besides these there were thirteen epidemic travelling dispensaries in charge of medical subordinates working under the control of the Sanitary Commissioner in different parts of the Province.

146. The total number of patients treated at the various dispensaries in the Province was 1,746,424 as compared with 1,674,980 in the preceding year. The increase, which was shared by most of the districts, was contributed by both in-door and out-door patients. The daily average showed a further rise of 37.95. **Number of patients.**

147. The total number of private dispensaries open at the end of the year was thirty-eight as compared with thirty-six in the preceding year. Most of these institutions were maintained by Missionary bodies, while fifteen were supported by private individuals or companies. The total number of patients treated was 147,242 of whom 1,679 were in-door and 145,563 out-door patients. **Private, dispensaries.**

148. The ailments for which relief was chiefly sought were malarial fever, diseases of the digestive system, eye, skin and ear diseases, ulcers, all diseases of the respiratory system except pneumonia and tubercle of the lungs, injuries (local and general), diseases of the nervous system, pyrexia of uncertain origin, rheumatic fever and rheumatism, diseases of the connective tissue, dysentery and all other general diseases. The increases as compared with the previous year were chiefly under ulcers, all other diseases of the digestive system, skin and ear diseases, dysentery and diarrhoea; while the decreases were under eye diseases, dyspepsia and pyrexia of uncertain origin. **Relative frequency of diseases.**

149. The number of surgical operations rose from 47,622 in 1913 to 49,029 during the year, and the number of selected operations from 3,936 to 4,106. Among the selected operations there were 1,105 extractions of lens for cataract, 176 operations for stone in the bladder, 173 amputations and 320 obstetric operations. **Surgical operations.**

150. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 14,19,260 as compared with Rs. 11,41,255 in 1913. This large increase of nearly three lakhs of rupees was common to all sources of income. The Government contribution increased by Rs. 1,166 under the head "Salaries" and by Rs. 55,615 under the head "Otherwise". The increase in the latter was due to the special grant of Rs. 50,000, made for the construction of quarters for medical subordinates and to a special grant of two lakhs made in 1914 towards the improvement of hospitals and dispensaries. Indian subscriptions showed a further increase of Rs. 22,041. **Income.**

151. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 9,10,185, against Rs. 6,29,549 in 1913. The increase was mainly due to a larger expenditure on European medicines, miscellaneous charges and on buildings or repairs during the year. **Expenditure.**

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylum in the Central Provinces for the years 1912, 1913 and 1914, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

152. The total number of lunatics in the Lunatic Asylum at Nagpur was 310 at the beginning of the year 1914; there were 118 admissions, two re-admissions, thirty-five discharges and twenty-one deaths, so that the population at the close of the year was 374. Of the 118 lunatics admitted, twelve were criminal and the remainder non-criminal. Twenty-five were discharged as cured and eight as improved. There were 338 admissions into the hospital during the triennium as against 418 in the previous three years. The number of deaths, though it showed an increase of one over the preceding year, gave a death-rate for the whole triennium of 61 *per mille*, one of the lowest death-rates in any Asylum in India. **Numbers and Health.**

153. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 72,042 as compared with Rs. 84,975 in the previous year. The general increase in the past three years was due to structural improvements, increase of staff and the high rates of food grains. The average cost per lunatic was Rs. 210 against Rs. 229 in 1913. The amount realised from paying patients fell from Rs. 4,591 to Rs. 3,760. **Expenditure.**

154. The profits of the manufacturing department increased from Rs. 2,591 to Rs. 3,687. The chief occupation of the male lunatics was employment on the farm, dairy, garden and general cleaning, while a few were engaged in cooking, weaving, smith and carpentry shops. The females were employed in cleaning grain, gardening and general cleaning in their wards. **Industries and Improvements.**

SANITATION**6—SANITATION**

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Chief sanitary works.

155. The most important water-works schemes in connection with which construction work was in progress during the year were those at Akola, Arvi, Buldana and Damoh. The work in connection with the supply of water to Government House and the bungalows on Seminary Hill was completed. The infiltration gallery of the Raipur water-works was further extended by 304 feet. The main drainage schemes on which work was in progress were those of Wardha, Nagpur and Harda. The Wardha drainage scheme was completed and the works were handed over to the Municipal Committee for maintenance. In Nagpur plans and estimates, amounting to Rs. 2,10,550 were sanctioned for the drainage of Craddock Town. For the Harda drainage scheme plans and estimate costing Rs. 2,13,610 were sanctioned, and work was commenced in November 1914.

Municipal sanitation.

156. The year was one of increased sanitary activity in Municipal towns; the adoption of standard designs and the drawing up of definite sanitary programmes is producing good results. The opening up of crowded areas, the introduction of building rules, and the construction of market stalls, public latrines and protected wells made steady progress, the improvement being most noticeable in Chhindwara, Saugor, Wardha, Burhanpur, Raipur and Hoshangabad. The Sanitary Board performed a large amount of useful consultative work. The question of employing a separate Health Officer for the large Civil Station of Nagpur was under consideration. The development of the Sanitary Inspectors scheme is still slow but there are fourteen trained men in the Central Provinces, and it is anticipated that the Local Administration's offer to smaller towns to pay half the salary of a Sanitary Inspector will prove of great assistance. Medical inspection of school children received increased attention; the plague staff in rural areas and the sub-assistant surgeons in many towns did most useful work.

Rural sanitation.

157. During the year six villages were brought under the operations of the Village Sanitation Act, while from one the provisions of the Act were withdrawn. Receipts amounted to Rs. 1,73,406 and expenditure to Rs. 1,54,697, the figures for the previous year being Rs. 1,60,532 and Rs. 1,14,540, respectively. The allotment of expenditure, which was mainly on the clearing of village sites and the construction and repairs of drains, roads, tanks and wells, showed a great improvement over the previous year. In the "Town Fund" villages and other villages managed by Mukaddams the receipts amounted to Rs. 64,563 and the expenditure to Rs. 66,864. Here, as in villages under the Village Sanitation Act, however, the expenditure on water-supply was insufficient.

VACCINATION**7—VACCINATION**

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

Mortality from small-pox.

158. The number of deaths from small-pox was 3,133 in 1914-15 as against 6,174 in 1913-14. The heaviest mortality was in the Drug district.

General record of vaccination.

159. The total number of vaccination operations performed during the year in British territory was 602,643 as compared with 622,376 in 1913-14. The decrease is attributed to outbreaks of plague and to transfers of officers owing to the war. Re-vaccinations showed a decrease of 22,582; less work was done in thirteen districts, the greatest falling-off being in Narsinghpur, where the decrease of 6,369 operations was attributed to the discontinuance of the peculiar local custom of vaccinating mothers after child-birth. In Chanda the staff was not ready for work until one month after the working season began and hence the number of operations fell short by 5,553. In Balaghat the decrease of 3,818 was due to the absence of coolies from manganese mines and to the want of lists of children available for vaccination. Outbreaks of plague and cholera and sickness among the staff account for the low figures in other districts.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

160. There were 41,665 births in Municipal towns during the year, and 12,441 deaths of children under one year of age. The number of infants successfully vaccinated was 26,516, or 91 per cent of the children available, an increase of seven per cent over the preceding year.

161. Owing to limited accommodation lymph could not be prepared on a large scale at the Central Vaccine Depôt at Nagpur for supply to all the districts in the Province. In all, five districts received their supply from the Depôt and the quality was good. The improvement in the method of preparation and the quality of the product is shown by the small number of calves employed there as compared with that in districts which depend on local manufacture. The special Depôt buildings, for which Government gave a grant of Rs. 50,000, were under construction; when they are complete the supply of lymph will be extended to the whole Province.

162. The total cost of the Department was Rs. 95,604 as against Rs. 84,241 in the previous year. This excess was due to the improvement in the pay of the staff from the 1st October 1914 and to the additional establishment entertained at the Central Vaccine Depôt. The cost of each successful vaccination has in consequence also risen from Re. 0-2-3 in the previous year to Re. 0-2-6. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 75,355 was contributed by Local Funds and Rs. 8,800 by Municipalities, the remainder being paid from Provincial Funds.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

163. An account of this subject will be found on pages 97 and 98, Sections 296—304, of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1911-12.

EDUCATION

2—EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15, and Volume V of the Statistical Abstract.]

General.

164. The year's figures show an increase of 210 schools and 9,213 scholars. This increase was not, however, so large as that recorded in 1913-14. In the primary stage of education, where alone the decline was noticeable, the presence of plague and cholera and possibly to some extent financial depression resulting from the war affected attendance, while habitual absentees were struck off the rolls and unwieldy classes were brought within the limits imposed by staff and accommodation. At the close of the year, the total number of educational institutions was 4,529 and the number of scholars 347,666, the apparent fall in the provincial total as compared with the previous year being due to the exclusion of the figures relating to institutions maintained by the Feudatory States. The percentage of the total number of scholars to the total population of school-going age was 16.65 as compared with 16.21 in the preceding year. In the Chhattisgarh Division there was a distinct advance in the education of the low caste of Chamars and there were signs of progress in this direction, mainly due to Mission agency, among the depressed classes in Berar and in the Nagpur Division.

Expenditure.

165. The total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 39,80,802 in 1913-14 to Rs. 48,29,941 in 1914-15, of which Rs. 4,25,052 was spent from Government of India grants through the Public Works Department. The total expenditure from Government of India grants was approximately eleven and one-third lakhs. Proposals for the revision of the Grant-in-Aid Code were submitted to the Local Administration and sanction has been given to their adoption since the close of the year under review.

Recent changes.

166. The cadre of the Indian Educational Service was strengthened by the addition of a third post of Head Master and two posts of Inspectors of Schools. The appointment of an Assistant Inspector for each Circle has also been sanctioned. The minimum salary of Assistant Inspectresses in the Provincial Educational Service was raised from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 and the pay of the post of Head Mistress of the Girls' High School, Amraoti, was also increased from Rs. 250 to Rs. 400. Pending the re-organization of the Provincial Service, personal allowances were granted to officers in that service. The minimum pay of uncertificated teachers was raised to Rs. 8.

The Report of the Central Provinces and Berar University Committee referred to in the Administration Report for 1913-14, which was recently received, has been published for criticism and is being considered by the Administration.

167. There was an increase of 164 in the number of students receiving collegiate education. To meet the continually growing demand for admission, a temporary lecturer was added to the staff of the Jubbulpore Arts College, the staffs of the Morris and Hislop Colleges were strengthened, and everything possible was done in these colleges to accommodate the maximum number of eligible students. Good progress was maintained in the construction of the new buildings for the Jubbulpore Arts College, the completion of which is expected during the current year, and final arrangements were completed for taking the Morris College under the direct control of Government. The administration and academic performances of all colleges were satisfactory, the results in Science being the best yet obtained.

168. There was a marked increase in the number of Secondary Schools and scholars, particularly in Berar, where the demand for Secondary education is growing. The number of pupils in High Schools increased by 471 and in Middle Schools by 2,078. Six new High Schools were opened, three under Government management at Damoh, Betul and Khamgaon, two under private management and one under Municipal management. Thirty-two new Middle Schools were brought under recognition by the Department, of which five were under Municipal management and twenty-seven under private management. There was a further increase in the number of candidates for the Matriculation Examination held in 1915. The percentage of passes fell from forty-two to thirty-eight, which was, however, considerably above the University average.

169. There was an increase of only 6,407 pupils in the Primary Stage as against an increase of 26,495 recorded in 1913-14. The recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 received from the Government of India in 1914-15 was devoted entirely to the opening of more Primary Schools and was distributed among four Divisions. 127 schools were opened.

170. The results of examinations in the Training College, Jubbulpore, continued to be satisfactory and there was a steady increase in the numbers of both graduates and undergraduates under training. The class for the re-training of Vernacular School teachers made an excellent start, and two additional classes of this nature were opened at Amraoti and Nagpur. Steps were taken for the establishment of an additional Normal School at Seoni.

171. The most important event in Technical education was the opening of the Engineering School, Nagpur, in July 1914 and the organisation of a class in motor engineering in connection with this School. The Engineering School, which is in charge of the Principal of the Victoria College of Science, provides a three years' Civil Engineering course up to the Sub-Overseers', and in special cases up to the Overseers' standard, and seven scholarships are offered to students in this course. In Mechanical Engineering a four years' course is provided leading up to the First Class Boiler Certificate. The Motor Class offers a two months' course for chauffeurs, who are taught to drive and to execute minor repairs. A sum of Rs. 4,000 was again transferred from a Government of India grant to the Agricultural Department for the award of scholarships to sons of cultivators in High Schools and subsequently in the Agricultural College.

172. The number of pupils in institutions for Indian girls rose from 18,524 to 19,006. There was an increase of thirty-eight in the strength of Anglo-Vernacular Middle and High Schools, and four candidates passed the Matriculation Examination. The Girls' High School, Amraoti, was recognised for the Matriculation Examination by the University of Allahabad. The number of pupils rose to thirty and further hostel accommodation was provided for an increasing number of boarders. Six Aided Primary Schools were provincialised.

173. The number of schools remained unchanged, but there was a slight increase in attendance. A sum of over Rs. 19,000 was contributed by Government towards the maintenance and education of orphans and poor children. There was great activity in school building during the year, more than Rs. 67,000 being paid from the special Government of India non-recurring grant set apart for this purpose. Grants were given for the training of teachers outside the Province and there was an increase in the number of trained teachers.

EDUCATION**Muhammadian
education.**

174. There was only a small increase of 142 in the number of pupils under instruction against an increase of over 2,000 last year. The number of pupils in Secondary Schools rose by 195, and there was some increase in the number of pupils in Girls' Schools. The Muhammadian High School Hostel at Amraoti was completed and the construction of the High School begun. A contribution of Rs. 30,000, of which half was a special grant from the Government of India and the remainder added by the Local Administration, was sanctioned at the close of the year for the construction of a building for the Anjuman High School, Jubbulpore.

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS**LITERATURE
AND THE
PRESS****Vernacular
Presses.**

175. During 1914-15 the number of publications amounted to 114 as against 103 in 1913-14 and 111 in 1912-13. This increase was mainly under the heads Poetry and Geography. As in the previous year, great care was exercised in registering publications in conformity with the statutory orders framed from time to time by the Government of India under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. Of the books registered, twelve were in English, fifty-nine in Hindi, twenty-seven in Marathi, one in Urdu (written in Nagri characters), three in Sanskrit, one in the Marathi dialect, one in Canarese; nine were in two and one in three languages. There were twenty-three books of a religious character, sixteen treating of geography, three of science including mathematics, one of history, five of law, six of languages, two of philosophy and one of politics; nine were works of poetry, two of fiction and one of drama; while the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects. Thirty-one books were of an educational character.

176. The number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year under report was thirty as against twenty-nine in the previous year. During the year two papers, one of which, the *Marwari*, was the leading Hindi newspaper in the Province, ceased to appear, while one new paper was started. The *Hitavada* among the English and the *Maharashtra* among the Marathi newspapers continue to be the leading organs in the Province and have some influence among the educated public. The *Berar Samachar* is still the leading paper in Berar. The *Hitakarini* (Jubbulpore), which has a monthly circulation of 2,250, continued to provide healthy and loyal literature for the Hindi-speaking public in general and for the student class in particular.

4—LITERARY SOCIETIES**LITERARY
SOCIETIES**

177. The number of Literary and Scientific Societies rose from fifty-four to fifty-nine. The majority were subscription libraries and depended for their support chiefly on subscriptions from members. Four societies received grants from Government, while Municipalities contributed towards the maintenance of eleven.

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES**ARTS AND
SCIENCES****Arts and
Sciences.**

178. The improvement of the Nagpur Museum continued during the year under report, but much further progress cannot be expected until very extensive alterations and additions to the building have been made. This work, which had been approved by the Administration, could not be taken in hand owing to lack of funds. A considerable number of birds and mammals were added to the Natural History Section. A collection of ethnological exhibits, representative of the aboriginal tribes of the Province, was made. The average number of visitors to the Museum fell to 277 persons per diem, the decrease being attributed to the serious outbreak of plague in Nagpur during the year. The Raipur Museum continued to attract the public of Chhattisgarh and was visited by no less than 97,393 persons during the year. The Weaving School attached to this Museum, which has done some useful work, has now been taken under the supervision of the Textile Expert.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information, see Archaeological Survey of India (New Series), Vol. XIX.]

179. The expenditure of the Public Works Department on monuments and **ARCHÆOLOGY** antiquities during the year 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 14,442. The work of restoring the temple at Lassur in the Amraoti district is in hand. An expenditure of Rs. 4,800 was incurred against an estimate of Rs. 12,851. Rs. 5,348 was spent on repairing, clearing vegetation, removal of shrubs, preservation and improvements to the forts at Lanji and Garhi and the temple at Baihar, in the Balaghat district, the Dashaotar temple at Markanda and the Fort wall at Ballarpur in the Chanda district. A retaining wall to protect Colonel Fraser's tomb at Nimbola in the Nimar district was completed.
